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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

THE WELSH PEOPLE.

Wales: Its Social and Moral Condition, Language, &c., considered in relation to Education. By Sir Thomas Phillips. 8vo. Parker.

THIS volume, besides being an able vindication of the people of Wales from charges brought against them in the Reports of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the state of Education among them, contains a great mass of statistical intelligence, and of evidence to show that old prejudices have only received a new colouring of a graver tone, in the language of these official documents: "Taffy was a Welshman, Taffy was a Thief," being translated into the phraseology which represents matters for the information of Her Majesty's Government, has imputed we know not how many vices to be prevalent with the descendants of the ancient Britons, the Celte, or what else, who now inhabit the Principality, and constitute the nationality of the race. Disregard of oaths in the men, and want of chastity in the women, occupy a foreground; (litigious disposition, fostered by the notorious repute of Welsh attorneys, and "bundling" a relic of more innocent times, being no doubt the proximate causes); and in the rear are arrayed general immorality, hostility to property, and religious fanaticism, countenancing and pandering to a state of society which is at once inconsistent with Christian precepts, and monstrous in Christian practice.

Sir T. Phillips stands forth as the defender of his countryfolks against these imputations, which he considers to be unsustainable and calumnious.

"It was (he says) suggested to me, that although English readers, might be interested by a description of Welshmen by one of themselves: yet that it would be of but little benefit to establish, negatively, that they did not deserve the unfavourable character which they had received from the Commissioners of Inquiry. Yielding to that opinion, I resolved to undertake a description of the condition of Wales, and to present to Englishmen an estimate of the character of the people of that country, as influenced by language, social position, religious worship, and education."

After noticing the language, as affording no just clue to the inferences drawn by the commissioners, he proceeds:—

"Such imputations, instead of being cast at random in public Reports, which from their character give force and poignancy to the charge, should be conveyed in language carefully weighed, and strictly limited by the extent and character of the evil. When indiscriminately scattered abroad, they excite a strong sense of injustice; and no act in the stormy life of the late Mr. O'Connell provoked so much indignation in this country, as that of imputing general unchastity to the wives and daughters of Englishmen. It is the admission of men, who have travelled far and seen much, that in no country have they found women of greater gentleness and interest than the peasant girls of Wales; and yet it is of those young women the language is employed—that so far from wondering that they are almost universally unchaste, the wonder would be if they were otherwise." I deplore the extent to which unchastity prevails in Wales; and although there are reasons for believing that it is not of so frequent occurrence in that country as in some parts of England, it is yet humiliating to those who love the Principality through good report and evil, to be told, that the vice prevails there amongst classes of people raised above that condition of female society to which it is ordinarily confined in England.

Enlarged 175.]

"Amongst the mischievous results which the temper and spirit of the Reports have provoked in Wales, I regard with discomfort and anxiety a spirit of isolation from England, to which sectarian agencies, actively working through various channels, have largely ministered. In ordinary times this result might be disregarded; but at a period of the world's history, when the process of decomposition is active amongst nations, and phrases which appeal to the sympathies of race become readily mischievous, it behoves those very excellent persons, who claim Wales for the Welsh, to consider whether they are prepared to give up England to the English, and to relinquish the advantages which a poor Province enjoys by its union with a rich Kingdom."

The following insulated remarks also illustrate the author on leading points in his comprehensive discussion:—

"The difficulties arising from language are principally felt in the church: and it seems a truism to affirm, that where Welsh is the ordinary language of public worship, and the common medium of conversation, the language should be known to those who are to teach and exhort the people, and to withstand and convince gainsayers."

"English readers may consider the Chapter on Dissent remoter than the occasion required; but I would remind them, that the position of Wales cannot be understood, nor can Welsh questions be fitly disposed of, without a thorough acquaintance with the origin, progress, and present position of Welsh Dissent. There are two prevailing modes of describing the influence of Dissent in a country; of which one consists in attributing to the Welsh people more gross immorality and fanatical ignorance, than to any other part of Europe; and the other, of claiming for them an amount of piety, good morals, and religious information unequalled in any other country. Neither of those methods is satisfactory: and, whilst I deplore immoral practices which prevail in Wales, and am grieved by religious divisions and subdivisions, of which no country presents more painful examples than may be there found, and to which no limit can be assigned when Christian congregations disregard injunctions to Christian unity;—I cannot affirm the superior purity of conduct, and holiness of life, of the English peasantry, over those Dissenting worshippers who inhabit the mountain-fastnesses of my own land. I have endeavoured to do justice to the earnest spirit of the early Nonconformists, and to the labours of those good men who, in the last century, struggled with that irreligion which threatened to overwhelm the land."

The blundering which takes place in courts of justice from parties being imperfectly acquainted with the languages spoken and understood by each other, the author thinks may have led to what are denounced as perjuries; and we do not doubt that out of this anomalous condition of things many of the charges against Welsh jurors and witnesses have originated. We ourselves once saw a Welshman on the eve of being condemned to death in an English county assize for cattle stealing, against which he offered no defence, and simply because he did not comprehend one word of the accusation against him, or the lawyer opening the proceedings, or the witnesses, or the conviction, or the judge about to put on the black cap—his sole apparent knowledge and use of the English tongue being confined to uttering two words, jogged into him in the dock by the gaoler, and pronounced at the proper moment—"NOT KILTY!" The mistake was discovered just in time to save him from being left for

execution.—But to return to our author: thus on the grand arena he meets the commissioners:—

"The term barbarian, now employed by Anglo-Saxon writers to designate the Welsh descendants of the ancient inhabitants of Britain, was applied, fourteen hundred years ago, by those same inhabitants, to designate the invading Saxons: and few English readers can have forgotten the following passage from the letter conveyed by British ambassadors to Aetius, the Roman General:—

"The barbarians chase us into the sea, and the sea throws us back on the barbarians; and we have only the hard choice of perishing by the sword or the waves."

"Passages in the former history of the races now blended on the soil of Britain, are cited, not for the mischievous object of reviving animosities which should be obliterated, but of reminding Englishmen that the native population of Wales, now contemptuously stigmatized by English writers in language which would scarcely be appropriate if employed to describe the inhabitants of the islands of the Pacific, presented a civilization, exhibited an artificial frame of government, and engaged in Christian worship, sixteen hundred years ago; and of them it may be said, in the language of Gibbon, that, alone and unaided, they maintained a long and vigorous, though an unsuccessful resistance against the invaders of their country—a resistance which, as it could not avert, increased the miseries of conquest; and conquest has never appeared more dreadful and destructive than in the hands of the Saxons, who hated the valour of their enemies, disdained the faith of treaties, and violated, without remorse, the most sacred objects of Christian worship."

"Whoever contrasts English with German character, will recognise the modifications which have been produced in the Saxon elements by an admixture with Celtic and Norman blood."

"To use the words of a living writer, of whom his countrymen are justly proud—

"Wherever English history is brightened by deeds of desperate and romantic daring—wherever loyalty, faithfulness, and affection, stand out prominently from the page, we can either trace the existence or suggest the probability of British blood."

The annexed notes touch other and peculiar matters:—

"When the question is now asked, what progress has been made in introducing the English language? the answer may be given from Part II. of the Reports of the Education Commissioners, page 68. In Cardiganshire, 3,000 people out of 68,766 speak English. The result may be yet more strikingly shown by saying, that double the number of persons now speak Welsh who spoke that language in the reign of Elizabeth."

The English language is acknowledged to be advancing, but the extinction of the Welsh is held to be impracticable, and certainly not desirable as a result of any system of education given to Wales; and the author adds:—

"It would be an interesting subject of inquiry, whether the discouragement of the native language, and the neglect of a native clergy, have not contributed alike to the prevalence of popery in Ireland, and of dissent in Wales."

"The want of systematic attempts, at the Reformation, to provide the Holy Scriptures and the Liturgy in the language of the people, and the neglect to provide ministers conversant with the language, have caused the Church to be regarded, as well in Wales as in Ireland, as a foreign or alien institution, and its dignitaries as officers of state rather than ministers of religion."

"In expressing these opinions on a question important to the interests of the Church, as well as to the welfare of the people, there is no desire to extend instruction in Welsh beyond the necessity created by the present condition of the Principality. In the phraseology of the day, it is a fact that Welsh exists; and with that fact the friends of education must deal. By what mechanism the work of instructing Welsh children shall be conducted—whether the child shall be first taught English words and their meaning, by the aid of duoglot elementary works, or by some other method fitted to convey the sense of the words, and not the sound only, and shall afterwards, in due course, and at a proper period, be taught to read Welsh; or whether the child shall first be taught to read Welsh, as recommended in the extracts just quoted, and afterwards be taught English—are questions about which much difference of opinion exists, and which will be most satisfactorily solved by allowing each method to be tried by those who are the best judges of what is practically convenient in the special circumstances of each locality—namely, the promoters of schools in the several districts of the country—all that is here recommended being, that such a method shall be pursued as will competently instruct the children of the Welsh portions of the Principality in each language, so that they may read both with understanding."

On the score of moral character our author is the true St. David, and has indeed a desperate combat to wage against the Dragon-commissioners, who assail and devour the people of his native land with such onslaught as the following:—

"With a wide-spread disregard of temperance, whenever there are the means of excess, of chastity, of veracity, and of fair dealing."

"Such are some of the circumstances under which the early life of a Welsh peasant girl is passed. So far from wondering at what is said of them—viz., that they are almost universally unchaste—the wonder would be if they were otherwise."

"At least two-thirds were virtually heathen, and without any real knowledge of Christianity."

"I am confident that, as regards mendacity, there is frequently no consciousness that it is sinful, so habitual is disregard for truth whenever interest prompts falsehood."

The arguments against these conclusions are urged with patriotic earnestness, and very considerable weight, supported on statistical data; but we can only refer to them; nor can we do more with the large portion of the volume which is devoted to the question of Dissent and its consequences.—A striking feature is quoted from a recent charge of the Bishop of St. David's, in which his lordship animadverts on the valuable lesson that "religious knowledge and devotional excitement do not of themselves produce moral habits and a religious life. Religious enthusiasm has been often combined with immorality, and not unfrequently with sensual indulgences."

And the Bishop observes:—

"It seems to have been supposed, by the persons who have endeavoured to destroy the credit of the Reports, that if it could be shown, with regard to one kind of immorality, which has been represented as peculiarly prevalent in Wales, that the state of things here is not worse, but rather better, than in several parts of England, this would be enough for the vindication of the educational and moral condition of Wales on that head. But there is still a remarkable peculiarity in the case of Wales, which they have overlooked, or found it convenient to keep out of view. It is, that in one most important point, deeply affecting all the relations of domestic life, the state of morals here, whether high or low, in comparison with other parts of the Kingdom is, according to admissions made on all hands, very low indeed, in comparison with the ordinary degree of proficiency in religious knowledge. The striking phenomenon is, that the greatest looseness in this respect seems to be found side by side with an uncommon amount of biblical and theological learning, and a surprising familiarity with abstract points of controversial divinity; that practices inevitably and notoriously lead-

ing to such immorality are not only tolerated, but sanctioned, in otherwise decent and professedly religious households; and that certain seasons of religious exercises are not unfrequently perverted into occasions for the same kind of sensual indulgence."

Ever has it been and ever will be so. Where strong passions are aroused by religious enthusiasm and excitement, they will not be confined to their immediate cause, or the sphere of its operation, but will extend on every side into equally maddening passions of other kinds, and, as in the storming of towns, let loose rapine, lust, and murder, among the raving, jumping, and infuriated devotees.

Sir Thomas enters into a complete history of dissent in Britain, and its introduction into Wales; and the diffusion of Calvinism, Methodism, and other sectarian divisions. These seem to have for more than a century exercised a very great influence on the formation of the character of the people, and the energy of their popular teachers to have produced effects similar to the preaching of the Crusades by Peter the Hermit. At present it is estimated that there are of chapels or places of religious worship in Wales, 370 Baptist, 565 Independent, (43 of which are English), 742 Calvinistic Methodist, and 30 Unitarian; the Calvinists numbering 50,750 members, and the Wesleyan denominations 16,558.

The author goes on to show by what various causes the Church of England Establishment has been weakened in the country, and with the painful summary we conclude our quotations:—

"We have seen the religious edifices erected by the piety of other times, and with the sustentation of which the lands of the country have been charged, greatly neglected, whilst the lay officers, on whom the duty of maintaining those buildings in decent condition was imposed, are sometimes not appointed, or, if appointed, make light or nought of their duties: we have seen ecclesiastical officers, specially charged with the oversight of the churches, not required to exercise functions which have been revived by recent legislative enactments: we have found a clergy with scanty incomes, and a want of decent residences, ministering in a peculiar language, with which the gentry have most commonly an imperfect, and often no acquaintance,—even where it is the language of public worship—influences which lower the moral and intellectual standard of the clergy, by introducing into holy orders too large a proportion of men, whose early occupations, habits, and feelings, do not ordinarily conduce to maintain the highest standard of conduct, and who (instead of forming, as in England, a minority of the whole body, and being elevated in tone, morally and mentally, by association with minds of higher culture) compose the large majority of the clergy of the Principality. It cannot, then, be matter of surprise, if amongst those men some should be found who (not being received on a footing of equality into the houses of the gentry, over whom they exercise but little influence) again resume the habits from which they were temporarily rescued by an education itself imperfect, and, selecting for daily companionship uneducated men, are either driven for social converse to the village alehouse, or become familiarized with ideas and practices unsuited to the character, injurious to the position, and destructive to the influence of the Christian pastor."

"We have found the ecclesiastical rulers of this clergy and chief pastors of the people, as well as many other holders of valuable Church preferment, to consist often of strangers to the country, ignorant alike of the language and character of the inhabitants, by many of whom they are regarded with distrust and dislike; unable to instruct the flock committed to their charge, or to teach and exhort with wholesome doctrine; or to preach the word; or to withstand and convince gainsayers, in the language familiar to the common people of the land. Finally, we have seen the Church, whilst she compassed sea and land to gain one proselyte from the heathendom without, allow a more deplorable heathendom to spring into life within her own borders; and the term, baptized heathens, instead of being a contradiction in terms, has become the true appellation of thousands

of men and women in this island of Christian profession and Christian action.* Nevertheless, the Welsh are not an irreligious people."

The educational question is discussed at great length: the difference between the Committee of the Council and the National Society, lamented as a sore impediment to progress; and a collegiate establishment efficient grammar and middle class schools, (with teachers properly trained), and good elementary schools for the poor in Wales, suggested as the remedy for existing evils, in this most important of popular and national considerations.

PRINCE ADALBERT'S TRAVELS.

Travels of H. R. Highness Prince Adalbert of Prussia in the Brazils, &c. Translated by Sir R. H. Schomburgk and J. E. Taylor. 2 vols. 8vo. Bogue.

THIS is one of the publications which does credit to all concerned in it. It is an honour to the author, who, contemning the luxuries and pleasures of high station, devoted his youthful energies to the fatigues of travel, and the acquisition of knowledge.† It is an honour to his gallant companions in the toil. It is a simple, unaffected work of literature, read with interest, and remembered with satisfaction. It is ably translated, and leaves only traces of intelligence behind; among which, the grand scenery of the mighty Brazilian rivers and primeval forests, the adventures of the chase, the habits and manners of wild Indian tribes, the torments of insect inflictions, the dangers of navigation, and the daily and nightly pictures of life entirely different from civilization, are the principal features, and the reader's dream closes at the end, as if the whole were a moving panorama or a vision.

The work was originally written in German for private circulation, and was noticed at the time in the *Literary Gazette*, with Alexander Von Humboldt, Von Martius, Von Spix, Southey, and Burchell, &c., before it. We need hardly remark, that it is more attractive as a personal narrative than as a scientific performance. After travelling much over the south of Europe with his brother, Prince Waldemar, (the account of which we pass over), Prince Adalbert, in 1842, proceeded, in a Sardinian vessel of sixty guns, to Rio, crossed the country to the mouth of the Amazon, and ascended that river to the Xingú, one of its most important tributaries, which he explored for the first time, and to which part we shall chiefly direct our attention. Before embarking on the waters, however, we shall begin with a passage relating to the slaves in the Brazils, which bears somewhat on the views of philanthropy on the great question, still so much discussed in our day. In an excursion to the Parahyba the prince writes:—

"We reached home quite fatigued by the heat, and the toil of following the rough footpaths, being frequently obliged to climb over and under the gigantic trunks of felled trees. M. de Luze and Mr. Therman met us in high glee, jokingly displaying a Paca—a small species of wild hog—as a trophy of their success; it had been killed by the negroes of the Fazenda!"

"The dinner, to which we did ample justice, was excellent, and introduced us to some Brazilian dishes. The principal topic of conversation was again the negroes, their condition and treatment. It is true that instruments of punishment, of various kinds, were hanging around the walls of the room; nevertheless it seemed to me, that the negroes are less

* "The thought may suggest itself, that this passage, as well as the description of the social condition of the mining population of South Wales, contained in the third chapter, is inconsistent with the moral standard asserted for the Welsh people in the fourth chapter; but a little consideration will serve to show, that the condition of colonies in the mining districts, composed of Englishmen and Irishmen, as well as Welshmen, has no direct bearing on the question discussed in the fourth chapter; and the general absence, even in those districts, of the savage ferocity, brutal violence, and coarse profanity, which are found in the mining districts of Staffordshire, Cheshire, and Lancashire, furnishes indirect testimony in favour of Welsh character."

† His younger brother was the brave comrade of Lord Hardinge at Sobraon.



ill-treated in Brazil than we are wont to imagine; nor indeed do they appear, from what I observed, to be conscious of the grievance which we attach to slavery, as the same exists also in their own country, and they are accustomed to it from youth. The blacks require a strict but just treatment, and the self-interest of the master demands that they should be well-fed and provided for. They did not appear to me to be over-worked; at least they certainly did not tax their strength. M. de Luze has resided alone for many years among his slaves; he and his foreman were the only white men among seventy negroes. The loaded guns and pistols hanging up in his bed-room however showed that he had not entire confidence in them, and indeed he had more than once been obliged to face them with his loaded gun.

"The bell was rung at eight o'clock, to summon the negroes to their dwellings. The evening was very cool, and Reaumur's thermometer stood at 12° R. (59° Fahr.)"

From Negroes we pass to Indians. From the Parahyba the party journeyed to the Rio da Pomba, (Pigeon River;) and we read:—

"We crossed it in a canoe, taking our saddles with us, while the horses and mules swam over the stream. The opposite bank is higher and projects; upon it stood some mean-looking houses, with a little cultivated land around them, and a tract of cleared ground stretching at the back. Here again the magnificent Sapucajas reared their heads, like gigantic flowers,—a wonderful spectacle, which will form one of the pleasing reminiscences of this journey.

"On reaching the other bank we saddled our beasts, and, guided by the fat proprietor of the adjacent houses, went to visit the huts of some Indians, who work for pay in the valley. On our way we met Johanna, an old woman a hundred years of age; she had veiled her tawny and venerable charms in a dirty garment, so that we could raise our eyes to gaze on his monument of past days without a blush. She was leading two children by the hand,—probably her great-grand-children! Our reverend conductor told us that she had lived to see four or five generations; but he believes there are Indians in this tribe who have witnessed as many as six, and hence he infers their age to be from a hundred and forty to a hundred and sixty years. The absence of excitement and passion in their way of life, together with their simple fare, seems greatly to favour this longevity. These tribes of south Brazil are by nature indolent and lazy; their sole occupation seems to be sleeping and eating, and they resort to hunting and fishing only when compelled by hunger. Those who still reside in the forests, live on fruits and roots, which they roast in the ashes, while those who live in the vicinity of the fazendas and aldeas cultivate a little mandioca and a few bananas, or hire themselves, as in the present case, as labourers upon the Roças.

"We soon reached the Roça of which we were in quest. The trunks of gigantic trees were lying about, on the plantation, which was close to the border of the primeval forest. In the midst of it was a hut, seemingly built by the proprietor of the land for the Indians: the exterior had quite an European appearance; but the inside was fitted up in the Indian fashion. The first sight that met us was a woman stark naked, who no sooner saw the missionary at a distance, than she quickly donned her shift and slipped into her hammock. The aged Methuselah, however, the oldest among the converted Indians in this district, did not imitate her example, but remained lying unconcerned in his hammock, in the state of primitive innocence, and staring at us with perfect apathy. The offer of a few copper coins, however, seemed to produce an effect on him: he took them, but instantly turned round, and did not vouchsafe us another glance. Several Puris one by one made their appearance, assembling before the door of the hut. Around lay strewn a quantity of red and blue feathers, as I suppose, from a macaw (Ara) that had just been picked.

"The colour of the natives is a dark brown: they are not exactly ugly, though they have, in some degree, the features of the Kulmucks, with high

cheek-bones, and an expression of stupidity. Black hair—which is only of a lighter tint in some of the children—falls matted over the shoulders, and is cut before and behind in a straight line, like that of the Russian peasants. The Puris and Coroados are mostly of low stature, with usually a prominent abdomen: still, it cannot be said that they are, on the whole, ill-formed. Almost every Indian had put on clothing of some kind. We purchased from these people bows and arrows, and also a *rede* or hammock; they treated us with nuts of the Sapucaja, roasted in the ashes. Afterwards, we visited another hut in the forest close by, very picturesquely situated, and built quite in the Indian fashion. It consisted of a simple framework of poles, covered with leaves of the prickly palm, forming a more oblong and much larger square than the hut of the Coroados which we saw yesterday. The hammocks were here suspended about a foot and a half from the ground, and we observed the same kind of vessels as in the other hut. Some Indians in trowsers, and a few even dressed in shirts, were squatted round the fire. A gun, with bows and arrows, were leaning against a post: two slender trees had been bent down, on one of which some clothes were hung, while a pair of tame parrots were pacing demurely backwards and forwards upon the other. On entering the hut, we observed a woman and a savage-looking man, resting in their hammocks: this seems to be the favourite mode of passing the time with these Indians, and they gave us the impression of feeling shame at being visited.

"Generally speaking, the Puris of the Roça did not answer to our expectation; they were estranged from their natural state, and an instance of this we noticed in their preferring copper coin, and even paper-money to the glass beads which we offered them. We soon took our leave, resolving to pay a visit to another tribe of Indians, inhabiting the Serra das Freixiras, distant about twelve to fifteen leagues, and who lived, as we were told, in a perfectly savage state. We therefore returned to the banks of the Rio da Pomba."

The ascent of the Amazon brought them into contact with yet wilder nature, both animate and inanimate; and from the descriptions of which we offer the following selections, as fair though few illustrations of the whole book. On the Amazon:—

"In passing the eye rested with pleasure on the fine forms of the trees in the adjacent forest, or followed the flight of the numberless water-birds,—many of them new to us,—especially the large white gulls called 'Garce,' or the white Egrettes and Divers, with flesh-coloured heads, with which the air and water seemed alive. Count Bismark shot a 'Mergulho,' (a bird between a goose and a duck,) and Count Oriolla a large white bird of prey.

"I was just loading my fowling-piece, when I observed an object on the white mud of the river, which gleamed in the sun's rays like a coil of silver: it was a serpent, basking in the sun. We rowed toward the spot, and Count Oriolla fired at it from a distance of thirty to forty paces: he missed it with the first barrel, but wounded it in the tail with the second, which was charged with large shot, No. 2. This seemed to rouse the creature: our boat grounded almost at the same moment a little higher up than where the serpent lay, but some intervening bushes prevented our keeping it in sight. We all eagerly jumped into the river, followed by most of the crew: Counts Oriolla and Bismark were overboard in a minute, but as the real depth of the water seemed to me very problematical, I leaped quickly on to a withered branch of an enormous prostrate tree, which served as a bridge to the shore. Although I had little hope of coming up with the serpent, I advanced as fast as I could along the slippery trunk,—a thing by no means easy, on account of my large Indian-rubber shoes, which the swollen state of my feet had obliged me to wear for some weeks past. Just then I heard the report of a gun on my left, and instantly jumping into the morass, warm from the sun's heat, sinking into it up to my knee at every step, and leaving one of my shoes in the mud, I hastened in the direction of the sound. Count Oriolla, who was

the first to leap out of the boat, ran to the spot where he had wounded the serpent, and caught a sight of the reptile as it was trying to escape into the forest. Suddenly it glided into the mud under the trunk of a prostrate tree, and at that instant the Count struck it with a cutlass, which however merely rased the skin; he then threw himself at full length upon the creature, as it was sliding away, and thrust the steel into its back, a few feet from the tail. The Count vainly tried to stop the monstrous reptile, which dragged him along, though the cutlass had pierced its body and entered the ground beneath. It was fortunate that the serpent did not bend backwards, and entwine its bold pursuer in its folds,—nor less so that Count Bismark, the only one who was armed with a gun, came up at this critical moment; climbing over the trunk of the tree, he faced the enemy, which hissing, lifted its head erect in the air, and with great coolness gave it a shot *à bout portant* through the head, which laid it apparently lifeless on the ground.

"My companions described the creature's strength as wonderful, writhing in immense folds, and flinging its head from one side to another in its efforts to escape the well-aimed stroke of Count Oriolla; but a few moments after the shot, which carried away its lower jaw and a part of the head, the serpent seemed to arouse from its stupefaction, and Count Bismark hastened back to the boat to fetch Mr. Thermen's gun. All this was the work of a few moments: I had hardly left the boat more than two or three minutes, when I stood beside Count Oriolla, on the trunk of the tree, with the serpent coiled up in an unshapen mass at its roots. I could scarcely wait to hear what had passed, but seized a heavy pole from one of the men who gathered round, to have a thrust at the creature's head. Raising itself up it now seemed to summon its last strength, but it vainly strove to reach us on the tree. I stood ready, armed with a cutlass, to thrust into its jaws, while the Count stirred up the serpent, provoking it to the fight; the creature's strength was however exhausted. Count Bismark now returned, and shattered its skull with another shot, and it died in strong convulsions. Though I could not share with my valiant companions the honour of the day, I was fortunate enough to arrive in time for the 'Hallali.' Our prey proved to be a large Boa-constrictor, measuring sixteen feet two inches in length, and one foot nine inches in circumference; the sailors called it a 'Sueurijá.' In skinning and dissecting it, a dozen membranaceous bags or eggs were found in its body, containing young serpents, some still alive, and from one to two feet long. The Counts kindly presented me with the beautiful skin, which was spotted white, yellow, and black, and covered with small scales: this trophy of their valour now forms the chief ornament of my residence at Monbijou. As soon as the task of skinning was accomplished, which the thickness of the animal's scaly covering rendered very difficult, we again set sail, soon after twelve o'clock, and continued the ascent of the Amazon, carrying off the skin of the Boa in triumph, spread out to dry upon the roof of our boat.

"The rising sun shone upon the small island of Tarazéda, lying on our left. It is said that the fabulous gigantic serpent, the man-eating 'Boi-nassá,' is seen occasionally upon this island: it is probably the same monster which Spix and Martius call the 'Fluss-mutter,' (Water mother.) We subsequently procured more detailed information respecting this imaginary creature, and from the lips of a man whose credibility we had otherwise not the slightest reason to doubt—our faithful travelling-companion on the Xingú, Father Torquato, to whom the reader will soon be introduced, and who assured us that he had himself seen the Boi-nassá. He told us that three or four men are unable to encircle it with their arms, and that its articulated body resembles a number of hogheads strung together; adding that at Vigia a cannon was fired at this creature without hitting it, upon which the serpent took to the water. Popular tradition likewise speaks of a monster called 'Acará-mboya,' that generally lives in deep places abounding in fish, and swimming against the current

meets the fishermen and displays its breast and head, the latter decked with three feathers. But the most formidable creature of all is the seven-headed 'Serpente,' which, according to Albuquerque's description, lives in the lake of 'Sette Cabeças,' formed by the Ajará (an arm of the Amazon) opposite the Serra de Almeirim; he said that the existence of this serpent was not quite certain, but the Acará-mbaya had shown itself under the following circumstances as recently as the year 1834, in his neighbourhood on the Peturú, not far from where the Xingú is joined by the Aquiquí. A father went with his three sons to fish, but before setting to work he was anxious to ascertain the truth respecting the existence of this serpent. All three (?) discharged their guns thrice, as nine shots fired three at a time, constitute the charm to call up the Acará-mbaya to the surface: just as the ninth shot was fired, the serpent appeared, and made straight toward them, whereupon they threw down their guns and sought safety in flight. To this wonderful story the pilot added from his own experience, that he had once heard the roaring of the serpent; but as many other creatures, especially the alligators, joined in the concert, it was difficult to say from what part the sound proceeded."

On the islands and banks of the Xingú, similar circumstances attended them. Bartering with the Indians was a frequent pastime. We give an example:

"In the midst of this crowd of Indians, all so eagerly busied with this childish flattery, and bargaining for the merest trifles, a mother sat upon the grave of her husband, her eyes turned in grief toward the earth, and her children playing about her; as if she would protect the weapons of her departed husband from desecration; for these are held sacred among the Jurúnas, who will not part with them for any price."

"After awhile, the Indians exhibited treasures of more value, and among the rest some handsome head-dresses of parrots' feathers, much more splendid than any we had yet seen, and which readily found customers. I was fortunate enough to obtain a large war-club, made of black wood, deeply grooved, which the owner had taken in battle from an Axiapai. Several of the Jurúnas wore a thin piece of reed stuck behind the ear, to which was fixed the tooth of a slain enemy: very possibly the possession of this trophy had caused the victim his life! But this token of valour had also its price, and found its way into the neatly woven Indian basket, which one of our party had filled with various ornaments, purchased from the women, who eagerly exchanged their strings of grey seeds for our glass beads. Many of these teeth—instead of which, others wore red macaws' feathers behind their ear—had been taken from Peapais slain in battle: we observed in the crowd a slave belonging to this tribe, who had been captured by his present owner, and brought to his settlement."

"The heat was oppressive in the hut, and, notwithstanding the burning sun, we were glad to escape into the open air."

Farther on:—

"It had meanwhile become dark, and the red glare from a large fire at the back of the hut struggled with the silvery light of the rising moon. The dance was now to commence: some of us took our seats upon esteiras spread out close to the hut, or on Indian footstools. The place was soon crowded with groups of Indians, but no one seemed inclined to begin. While we were waiting for the dance, I questioned Padre Torquato relative to the religious belief of the Jurúnas. Instead of answering, he turned to an old Indian near us, whom he had himself baptized when once on a visit to Souzel, and asked him what was his faith. The old man answered, without hesitation, that he believed in a deity from whom came all good, pointing at the same time to the moon, and on a being from whom came all evil. The Padre himself translated this to me,—he seemed to have expected from the old man this naive confession of his pure Jurúna faith,—a proof how little the missionaries instruct their converts in the doctrines of Christianity. Baptism is to them simply a political act,—it confers

on a man a name, and he thenceforth considers himself as belonging to Souzel, and as one of the children of their great father the Emperor, while the Government can add another subject to the returns of population, of whose existence it would otherwise not have known. The moon, as the representative of the Deity, is held in great reverence by the Jurúnas, and the day when she becomes full is their chief festival. They prepare for these occasions an intoxicating drink from the root of the mandioca, called 'caxeri,' of which the assembled inhabitants of the Maloca partake in the evening; and as soon as the men are sufficiently excited, the dancing commences. Except on these occasions, the men never join in the dance. The festival to-day was got up *extempore*, notwithstanding that the moon was neither at the full nor was there any caxeri; instead of the latter, I thought of giving the caxaça we had brought with us; but on inspecting our store, I found so little left in the large flask, that I considered it desirable to keep this for our men on future occasions of cold or fatigue: the dance, in consequence, did not come up to our expectations."

With another morsel of Indian life, we conclude these slight traits of this very pleasing production:—

"Martinho's wife took advantage of the time while the boats were being again freighted, to dye her husband's white dog red (a colour for which the Indians have a great predilection) with the juice of a plant; she afterwards painted her bracelets and those of her pretty little girl, who had also some red rings painted round her temples, and stripes on her arms. The mother then performed a more painful operation, pulling out her daughter's eyebrows and eyelashes, which the child bore with great firmness and resolution: a young girl of her age begins to bestow care on appearance, and this was a sacrifice at the shrine of vanity, for even the ladies of the South American forests are not proof against the influence of this passion."

We ought not to close the volume without observing, that some very friendly intercourse took place between the German travellers and the English officers on board of H. M. S. Growler, who enjoyed the opportunity of paying some marked attentions to them.

THE PERCY SOCIETY.*

THE review of Massinger's lost play, as one of the annual products of the Percy Society, (see *Literary Gazette*, No. 1673), has attracted more of our attention to its quick-following issues; and we notice, as very curious productions, Nos. 79 and 81—the former, *Descriptive Notices of Popular English Histories*, by J. O. Halliwell; and the latter, *Satirical Songs and Poems on Costume, from the Thirteenth Century*, by F. W. Fairholt. Mr. Halliwell's is one of those slight but quaint and pleasant contributions on things which interest every rank of intelligent beings. The plodding antiquary likes them for the lights they shed on his pursuits; and the servant wench in the kitchen would like them, if they ever penetrated below, for their legendary lore, and illustration of the thoughts and manners (and *studies*, for they are much addressed to, and were, in olden days, the popular reading of, the lower classes) of her precursors in the humble and useful walks of life. Mr. Fairholt's rises more into the region where dress

* The ninth annual meeting of the Percy Society was held at the rooms of the Royal Society of Literature, on Tuesday the first of May, Lord Braybrooke in the chair, when a very satisfactory report was laid before the members, and the usual votes were passed. The following were elected officers and council for the ensuing year: President, the Right Hon. Lord Braybrooke, F.S.A.; Thomas Amory, Esq., F.R.S. F.S.A.; William Henry Black, Esq.; T. Crofton Croker, Esq., F.S.A. M.R.I.A.; J. H. Dixon, Esq.; Frederick William Fairholt, Esq., F.S.A.; James Orchard Halliwell, Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A., Secretary; W. Jerdan, Esq., M.R.S.L., &c.; Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, Bart.; E. Raleigh Moran, Esq.; T. J. Pettigrew, Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A.; James Prior, Esq., F.S.A. M.R.I.A.; William Sandys, Esq., F.S.A.; Richard John Smith, Esq.; The Rev. J. Reynell Wreford; Thomas Wright, Esq., M.A., F.S.A., Treasurer. Auditors, John Crookes, Esq.; W. D. Haggard, Esq., F.S.A.; W. Wansey, Esq., F.S.A.

was the distinguishing mark of personal or social position, real or assumed; and it is very amusing, at any time, to read descriptions which can in a moment be assimilated, through a century or two, to the prevalent *ton* of one's own day. Hoops, bustles, long waists and short, short petticoats and long, head-dresses of utmost simplicity or monstrous inconvenience, exposures of one or other presumed personal attractions of form, and a thousand other fantastic tricks, furnish not only curious and entertaining, but very philosophical reading. Even to history they occasionally lend stray gleams: for the concealment of defects or untoward accidents in high quarters sometimes led to the adoption of costume which was anything but becoming or graceful to the undeformed and un-mutilated copyists of the reigning fashion. A princess might accidentally need a hoop; but why should all the young virgin aristocracy of the country therefore take to wearing whalebone ramparts around them? A crooked lady of rank (the Almack Queen of the time) might be improved by pads here and there, and hidings elsewhere; but is not this a stupid reason for all the naturally well-made girls of a land (especially "*angeli non Angli*," but all the better for being *Angli et non angeli* in spite of the silly imperial critic) celebrated for beauty imitatively garbing themselves as if they were unblest by Nature and crooked impostors? There are fooleries and fopperies besides, as Mr. Fairholt's book shows, which suggest ideas of the sameness of human vanities, in generation after generation boasting of their advance in civilization and enlightenment, which are well worth excogitating; and we have only to regret that the subject has necessarily produced illustrations too gross for general readers in a decorous age.

Returning to the publications in order, we shall merely remark, that the *Literary Gazette* having long and largely dabbled in the revival of literary curiosities, we shall only quote two specimens of Mr. Halliwell's little volume, justly celebrated as he is for the restoration of many a popular branch of the literature of olden times:—

"19. MOTHER BUNCH'S CLOSET NEWLY BROKE OPEN, containing rare Secrets of Art and Nature, tried and experienced by learned Philosophers, and recommended to all ingenious young Men and Maids, Teaching them in a natural way how to get good wives and husbands. By our loving friend Poor Tom, for the King, a lover of mirth, but a hater of treason. 12mo. With wood-cuts, n. d. In two parts."

"This very curious collection of vernacular customs, digested into the form of a narrative, seems to have escaped the notice of our writers on popular antiquities. The present edition was printed about 1770, but it was published very long before, being thus referred to in *Wit and Drollery*, 1682, p. 42:—

"Wit that shall make thy name to last,
When Tarleton's jests are rotten,
And George à Green, and Mother Bunch,
Shall all be quite forgotten."

"A way to tell who must be your husband.—'Take a St. Thomas's onion, pare it, and lay it on a clean handkerchief under your pillow; put on a clean smock, and as you lie down, lay your arms abroad, and say these words:—

"Good St. Thomas, do me right,
And bring my love to me this night,
That I may view him in the face,
And in my arms may him embrace."

"Then, lying on thy back with thy arms abroad, go to sleep as soon as you can, and in your first sleep you shall dream of him who is to be your husband, and he will come and offer to kiss you; do not hinder him, but catch him in thy arms, and strive to hold him, for that is he. This I have tried, and it was proved true. Yet I have another pretty way for a maid to know her sweetheart, which is as follows:—Take a summer apple of the best fruit, stick pins close into the apple to the head, and as you stick them, take notice which of them is the middlemost, and give it what name you fancy; put it into thy left hand glove, and lay it under thy pillow on Saturday night after thou gettest into bed; then clap thy hands together, and say these words:—

"If thou be he that must have me,
To be thy wedded bride,
Make no delay, but come away
This night to my bedside."

103. THE WITCH OF THE WOODLANDS, OR THE
COBLER'S NEW TRANSLATION.

"Here Robin the Cobler, for his former evils,
Is punish'd bad as Faustus with his devils.
12mo. London, n.d.

"A very curious tract, of which I have several editions, differing only in the wood-cuts. It commences: 'In the weilds. of Kent, not far from Romney Marsh, there dwelt an old merry-conceited cobbler, commonly called Robin the Devil, who afterwards was called the Witch of the Woodlands.' He gets into the power of some witches, who transform him into a fox, a horse, and a swan; but, in the end, meets with a beggarman, who leaves him a fortune. The annexed cut of the witches is taken from p. 12.

"Chap. 1. Robin's place of abode: he is married to a witch; with his piteous lamentation. 2. Robin runs away, and the entertainment he found on the road. 3. Robin wakes in the morning, and missed his bedfellow, who soon returns with some witches; the manner of his punishment, and other particulars. 4. Robin goes to London; with his bitter lamentation on the road. 5. Robin meets an old blind beggar. 6. Robin lives with a beggar, who dies and leaves him all his money; Robin goes home, and what use he makes of his good fortune. Some of the wood-cuts are incongruous with the narrative. At p. 16, is one of a knight and a lady at a well; at p. 18, a cut of two countrymen, the same which was a favourite embellishment in ballads of the seventeenth century; and at p. 21 is a representation of the devil bringing a goblet to a person in bed."

Mr. Fairholt has shed over his collection a mass of intelligence acquired in his pursuit of this favoured branch of inquiry. We cannot traverse six hundred years; but we will give the following examples of the manner in which he has treated his subject. The inconvenient and unseemly long skirts worn by ladies now, sweeping the streets, and bemudding or bedusting their limbs, (if they have occasion to walk even a hundred yards from a carriage,) were beaten "a long time ago."

"During the reign of Edward I. a monkish satirist gave us the following story 'of a proud woman' (here translated from Mr. Wright's 'Collection of Latin Stories,' published by the Percy Society)—'I have heard of a proud woman, who wore a white dress, with a long tail; which trailing behind her, raised a dust, even as far as the altar and crucifix. But, as she left the church, and lifted up her train on account of the dirt, a certain holy man saw a devil laughing; and having adjured him to tell why he laughed, the devil said: 'a companion of mine was just now sitting on the train of that woman, using it as if it were his chariot, but when she lifted her train up, my companion was shaken off into the dirt: and that is why I was laughing.' The custom continued until the reign of Edward IV., when the ladies even exceeded their previous doings, and an enormous quantity of cloth was used to widen and lengthen the gown. Chalmers says:—'The parliament of James II. did all that men could do to regulate dress, and to restrain the tails of women, as we know from Robertson's 'Parliamentary Records.' Dunbar drew his sharpest pen against the ladies' farthingalls; and reproves with wittiest indignation—

"Six foot taittis to sweep the calasy clets;
The dust upskailis mony a fillock."

Lyndesay seems to have had his eye on this sumptuary satire of Dunbar, when he sat down to pen his 'Supplication against Syde Taillis.' Yet, did our poet express his contempt in vain. In his 'Monarchies' he again attacks female fashions; he arraigns the *ladyis* with a sort of profane mixture of seriousness and levity, at the judgment seat of final retribution:—

"Ye wantoun ladyis, and burgis wyvis,
That now for sydest taittis stryvis:
Flappand the filth amang your feit,
Raising the dust into the streit;
That day, for all your pomp and pryde,
Your taittis sall nocht your hippes hyde."

"The Supplication against Syde Taillis' seems to have been written during the year 1538."

Again:—

A MEDITATION ON THE PRIDE OF WOMEN'S APPAREL.

"From *A New Spring of Divine Poetrie*, by James Day, 1637. A thin quarto of melancholy morality and pointless attempts at religious wit, after the fashion of Quarles. For example, he ends his 'meditation on a windmill,' with the lines—

'Lord drive me with thy spirit, then lie be
Thy windmill, and will grind a grist for thee.'

"See how some borrow'd off-cast vaine attire,
Can puff up pampers'd clay and dirty mire:
Tell me, whence hadst thy cloaths that make thee fine,
Was't not the silly sheep's before 'twas thine?
Doth not the silk-worm, and the ox's hide,
Serve to maintain thee in thy cheefest pride?
Do'st not thou often with those feathers vaile
Thy face, with which the ostridge hides her taile?
What art thou proud of, then? me thinks 'tis fit
Thou shouldst be humble for the wearing it:
Tell me, proud madam; thou that art so nise,
How were thy parents clad in Paradise?
At first they wore the armour of defence,
And were completely wrapt in innocence:
Had they not sin'd, they ne're had beene dismayd,
Nor needed not the fig-tree's leavy ayde!
Whatev'er state, O Lord, thou place me in,
Let me not glory in th' effect of sin."

Some of the satirical songs against ladies' toilets, and describing their boudoirs, would make the finest of the fine, at the present period, look like Simplicity itself; but, without alluding to many points in this volume, which we could not do without lengthened remark, and getting more broad than would suit propriety, (for antiquaries are too apt to forget all else when out on their hobbies,) we will quote it and its woodcuts (as in Mr. Halliwell's contribution) as hoisting seductive colours for taking "the bounty," and enlisting in the Percy.

SUMMARY.

The Personal History, &c., of David Copperfield, the Younger, of Blunderstone Rookery. By C. Dickens. No. I. Bradbury and Evans.

AN attractive and very clever frontispiece and vignette by Hablot Browne, favourably introduces Mr. Dickens' new serial to the wide world; and capitably does the author improve upon the pictorial text. The posthumous birth of the hero occupies a chapter, which the Lying-in Hospital and all its professional friends and officers might be proud to have written: and then the story proceeds with the infant, till he becomes, in due course, a little boy, and is sent out of the way with the maid, Peggotty, (one of Dickens' admirable individualizations,) till his simple, pretty young mother, the widow, is married to a "gent" of evil omen, rather than of fair promise. The touches of truth and character abound throughout, and the Fisherman's old-boat residence on Yarmouth flats is unique.

Alison's History of Europe, Vol. II. Blackwoods.

THE portrait prefixed to this volume is a very good one of that extraordinary man, Mirabeau; the next is of Danton, who would seem, from his physiognomy, an able, good-humoured, and sensual person; and then, the strange head and countenance of Marat. These likenesses add considerable interest to this new edition, which is also printed in excellent legible type, and is altogether worthy of re-inspiring the public desire for one of the few sterling histories of our age. The period embraced in this portion is what most stirring, important, and pregnant of mighty future events—1789 to 1793.

The Sea-side Book. By W. H. Harvey, M.D. Van Voorst.

A CAPITAL sea-side companion, with a very complete introduction to the natural history of the British coasts. Altogether, it is a volume of extreme interest, and executed with a thorough acquaintance with the various subjects of which it treats. Botany, both land and marine, conchology, ornithology, and the results of the Dredge, &c., are described with accuracy, and the science rendered popular by the manner in which it is explained and elucidated. The wood-cut illustrations are also numerous and good.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

HORE CELTICE.—NO. II.

To the Editor of the *Literary Gazette*.

SIR,—In confirmation of the etymology suggested for the word *Neptune*, in a former number, I beg leave to remark that the name of another marine deity denotes exactly the same thing when explained through the medium of Celtic. Thus *Triton* is equivalent to *trīnā-cōnn*, which likewise signifies *lord, or ruler of the waves*—the same idea that is expressed in our national song, "*Britannia rules the waves*."

I now propose to add a few more explanations of classical and scriptural names, and I would call particular attention to the fact that many such names still exist as expressive words in the Celtic dialects, and do not require resolution into significant component syllables, a process which leads to results much less satisfactory, though necessary to be adopted frequently. Thus, in reference to classical names, we find:—

Ἀχιλλεύς,* able, dexterous, whence *Achilles*, as suggested by O'Brien in his dictionary, at this word.

Ἀἴθε, revenge, whence the goddess *Ate*.

Μεμάρη, terrible, cruel, whence *Nemesis*.

Νηρέας, a mariner, whence the marine deity, *Nereus*.

Γαμήλια, pure, chaste, whence *Ganymede*, a name of *Hebe* as well as of her successor.

Ἰανγυλλεύς, warlike, engaged in battles, whence *Hercules*.

Ἰεσπιάς, of many trades, whence *Ierda*, a town in Spain.

Ἰόνιος, valiant, warlike, whence the name of *Ionians*. How applicable it was appears from Arnold's *Thucydides*, vol. i. page 658, where he says—"The Ionians were invited by other races to assist in their wars, from the reputation of their superior prowess."

Φαέβος, beauty, whence *Phæbus*, a name of *Apollo*. This word may also denote *knowledge*, and so would be equally applicable to *Apollo* as *Musagetes*, or leader of the Muses and god of learning. And, in fact, the name *Apollo* appears to me to express this idea, and to be derived from the combination *ab-ollāw*, (where the final letter loses its sound,) and which signifies the god-teacher, or the teacher-god; the word *ab*, according to Vallancey, denoting a god as well as a father.

The name *Orpheus* signifies something very similar, and I would derive it from *ἀείρω*, pronounced *auhēr*, (and contracted into *or*;) a father, and *For*, or *Fēr*, science, knowledge, instruction, making the compound, father of science, which title seems to have been justly applicable to *Orpheus*.

Ρήμης, proud, arrogant, whence *Remus*. *Ράμης*, gasconading, whence *Rameses*. *Ταίρεας*, a rover or wanderer, hence the name of the *Thessalians*, who were, in early times, of migratory habits.

Θαῖρας, a chieftain, a general, whence *Thesctis*.

Σαοβείας, the occult or parabolical sense of a thing, whence *Sibyl*.

Σίξ, a familiar or attendant spirit, hence *Silenus*, the constant attendant of *Bacchus*.

To the above words, which are almost all to be found in Irish dictionaries as they are here given, I will add a few others, formed by easy combinations, and which will serve to explain some classical words. Thus:—

ἁ-λεῖρε, region of happiness, whence *Elysium*. The Greek word *εἶρεσις*, which denotes the *Mænæ*, or spirits departed, seems to be derived, not from *εἶρε*, "in the earth," but from a combination equivalent to *ἁ-λεῖρε*—namely, *ἁ-γὰρ*, the place of the blest, and so the Greek word would denote those residing there. Both these compounds are similar in sense to *τ. Φεάν*, which was before explained to be the root of the name *Ierne*, and from which, by the addition of an epenthetic *n*, (which is of frequent

* It is scarcely necessary to remind the reader that in classical names the final *s* is seldom radical.

occurrence,) came the Latin *infernus*; at least *Ἰνfernus*, is now the name for *Hell*, the sense being completely changed.

The last classical word which I shall at present attempt to explain is *Alectryon*, or, as the name appears in Greek, *Ἀλεκτρυών*, and which in that language signifies a cock, but of which no derivation is given in the best lexicons. Now the meaning of the word appears quite simply through means of Irish, and is precisely equivalent to our English name, *Chanticleer*—i. e., "the proclaimer of the dawn;" as the song has it,—

"Great Chanticleer proclaims the dawn;"

for in Irish the compound *Ἀλεκτρυών* literally signifies, saluting sunrise; the form *Ἀλεκτρυών* simply means, saluting the light.

I will now endeavour to analyze some Scriptural names; and the first I shall select is *Babel*, the name of the place where the confusion of tongues took place; and which name, according to Gesenius, is a softened form for *Babbel*, which he derives from *Babal*, to confound. Now the form *Babbel* can be much more easily and appropriately derived from Celtic, for in Irish we have *Bal-bálbe*, the place of stammering; and substituting for the latter part of the compound the diminutive form *Balban*, we obtain the word *Balbanan*, whence *Babylon*. Connected with this town is *Nimrod*, the beginning of whose kingdom it was, and whose name is also written *Nemrod*, or, according to LXX, *Νεμρωδ-ης*. This name was long since attempted to be explained through Irish by the author of an essay on the round towers of Ireland; and, according to him, it signified "an assault on heaven," being derived from *Neamh-nós*. This seems very plausible; but though I agree with the clever and ingenious author of the conjecture as to the Celtic origin of the name, I cannot quite agree with him as to the explanation of it; both the component parts possess a variety of meanings in Irish, and by combining these two and two we might have a multitude of interpretations. Thus it might signify "the road of heaven," which I was formerly inclined to think the true meaning; but I find in Irish works the name is sometimes written *Neamh-nuad*, which may be interpreted *impotent*, an appropriate title for one foiled in his impious design; and hence I do not venture to pronounce with confidence on the true sense of the name. Another interpretation of it would lead to the supposition that Nimrod's tower was intended for astronomical purposes, and that his name alluded to the Zodiac, which would connect him with Hercules.

The name by which the Chaldeans are mentioned in Scripture is *כַּלְדָּיִם*. This I would derive from *ḫalad*, warlike; and the warlike character of the Chaldeans is well known. The name of the Babylonish kings likewise may be explained from Celtic: thus, Nebuchadnezzar is from *Neamhbozad-narcan*, which signifies, an impenetrable fortress. Thus, also, Belteshazzar would signify, the effeminate prince, from *Seamzan*, soft, effeminate. The first part of the component is not quite clear to me as yet.

Merodach, *Μηροδαχ*, a sovereign, or lord.
Senacherib, king of Assyria, from *Seamach-cenab*, which denotes, perhaps, two qualities of that prince—namely, craft and cruelty; the first word meaning cunning, as also, a fox—the term applied by our Lord to Herod, "go tell that fox;" and the latter signifying havoc or slaughtering, and being an epithet of some Irish princes. Thus, a prince of the Eugenic race was called *Seamach-cenab*, (See O'Brien at this word.)

Moloch, the false deity of the Ammonites, to whom they made their children pass through the fire, is derived from the Celtic word, *Molc*, fire. This word is the initial part of the classical compound, *Molocher*, a name of *Vulcan*; in fact, the word *Vulcan* itself is of kindred origin; for the letter *m*, when aspirated, has the sound of *v*, and hence *Molcan* would be pronounced *Vulcan*.

Baal-Peor, or *Βελ-φεγορ*, the name of an idol, supposed to be the Priapus of the classical mythology, expresses in its interpretation the distinguishing

characteristic of that base object. Thus, *Πεσέ-μον*, pronounced *Peghór* or *Pehor*, is equivalent to *mentula perygrandis*.

The last Scripture name I shall mention at present is *Shiloh*, under which title Jacob prophesies of the Messiah. This word is explained by the Samaritan version to signify the peace-maker. And in Irish, strange to say, the word *Siocló* (pronounced *shéeloh*) signifies peace, or the making peace—a coincidence sufficiently remarkable.

ALEPH.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

April 27th.—Mr. Mansfield, "On Benzole, its nature and utility." Of the latter, its application to artificial illumination, we gave a full report the week before last, (see page 296;) merely then stating, however, in regard to its nature, that benzole was a liquid hydrocarbon procured from coal tar. It is, in fact, a very volatile oil, distilled from coal tar; it is one of several oils contained in naphtha, but alone soluble in alcohol; it solidifies in a frigorific mixture of ice and salt. This latter property distinguishes it from the other hydrocarbons, toluole, cumole, and cymole, and enables it to be procured by pressure perfectly pure. Benzole is a neutral body, incapable of forming salts, but it does enter into composition. Treated with nitric acid, it is converted into a substance known as nitro-benzole, one of the products also of impure bitter-almond oil and ammonia. Nitro-benzole is already used in the manufacture of the well-known Hendrie's almond soap, specimens of which were on the table. A farther change is, the conversion of nitro-benzole into aniline, a compound ammonia; and cymaline, melaniline, and cyanomelaniline, are farther developments in the series, alkaloids built up by successive accumulations. The birth, parentage, and education of benzole were the proposed topics of the lecture; but the grandchildren, and even the possibility of building them up, were discussed with a thorough knowledge of the subject in all its bearings.

ASTLEY COLLIERY—AND THE FIRE ANNIHILATOR.

IN Mr. Phillips's fire annihilator we recognised the application of a principle which promised largely for the benefit of mankind, and accordingly we gave it our cordial approbation, and the publicity that words and a woodcut could convey. It was with great gratification, therefore, that we read on Wednesday a letter in the *Times*, from Mr. Darlington, describing the application of the principle on a grand scale and with a successful result. On Monday morning, the 2nd ult., one of his coal mines at Astley was discovered to be on fire, which had spread to such an alarming extent as to prevent all access by the usual shafts. The mine was instantly sealed up—all openings stopped down so as to prevent any access to the atmosphere, yet fire damp issued from every crevice about the stoppings, and through orifices in the earth, in such quantities that the safety lamps would take fire at a considerable distance. In this state of things Mr. Darlington says, "I wrote to Mr. Goldsworthy Gurney, whose application of high-pressure steam to the ventilation of coal mines is exciting so much interest, stating the case, and asking if he could point out any plan by high pressure steam exhaustion, or otherwise, likely to be of service. Mr. Gurney immediately came down, and after well investigating the conditions, in consultation with us, proposed to fill the mine with carbonic acid, azote, or some other extinguishing and incombustible gas. This, at first, appeared to us impracticable, and the immense quantity required to fill the galleries and lateral workings, together above three miles in length, too expensive, if it were possible to obtain it, to warrant the proposition. He, however, soon set us right. He said nitrogen, or azote, might be obtained from the winds of heaven, and carbonic acid from the coals lying waste about the pit, assisted by a little charcoal and lime; air would be deprived of its oxygen by being passed through burning charcoal, coke, and small coal, and the azote set free. In short, the product

of this combustion would be the choke, or black damp known in mines. We immediately built a furnace of brickwork four feet square, at a safe distance from the downcast shaft. To the ashpit, in every other respect made tight, an iron cylinder, thirteen inches in diameter, was connected, and made to terminate at an elbow under water in a close tank partly filled. With the upper part of this tank, above water, another pipe was connected and carried through the stopping of the downcast pit. A powerful steam jet was made to work between the furnace and the tank, which drew the air down through the fire, and forced it through the water. A second jet was placed in the cylinder at the top of the downcast shaft, and made to draw the choke damp from the tank, and force it into the pit. At the other, or upcast shaft, we placed a jet in a cylinder through the stopping, and made to exhaust from the shaft beneath, so as to assist the compressing jets, and draw the choke damp through the galleries between them. The apparatus thus fitted, as soon as the fire had burned up, was set in action. In order to test the effect of the choke damp we placed some burning tow, moistened with spirits of turpentine, into it. The flame was as instantly extinguished as if placed in water. It was thus tested in the cylinder, as it passed from the ashpit, before coming to the jet; also in the tank and second cylinder, with similar results. This was conclusive evidence of the perfect formation of the choke damp. In about two hours after the jets were set in action fire damp disappeared from the shafts, and we observed a slight cloudy appearance in the escape from the upcast shaft. It had the sulphurous smell of choke damp, which pervaded the air to a considerable distance. A safety lamp was now brought and placed in the upcast cylinder; it became instantly extinguished as if put in water. For this purpose the draughts were momentarily shut off. A bright burning fire of charcoal, in a chafing dish, was placed in the escape at the cylinder, and was also immediately extinguished. These facts satisfied us that the choke damp had passed through the mine. The period of its appearance agreed with our calculations. The quantity of choke damp forced through the mine was about 6000 cubic feet per minute, and this would fill the galleries in about that time. The choke damp was allowed to remain for several hours, at the termination of which we were convinced that all fire, however intense, must be extinguished in the mine. The connexion with the furnace was now broken, and fresh air driven through by the same jets. In about two hours the choke damp disappeared; this was shown by a safety lamp burning clearly in the escape, in the cylinder at the upcast shaft. We regarded the mine now as perfectly safe. With several men I descended the downcast shaft, 390 feet deep, to the tunnel leading to the working. We found all clear. The exhausting jet was kept up, drawing fresh air through the mine all night. The next day several men went down and passed through the workings, and found all clear and safe. This result has occasioned the greatest interest in our neighbourhood. Never was an experiment more successful. A gigantic power under such complete control, fighting with the elements, and, as it were, compelling them to destroy each other. The application of high-pressure steam to the ventilation of coal mines may effect a greater protection to life and property, but we regard this application as little inferior to the coal trade, and a triumph of science equal to any of the present day."

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

CAMBRIDGE, 25th April.—The following degrees were conferred:

Masters of Arts.—W. Brodick, G. F. Holroyd, R. J. Knight, A. P. Moor, H. Wilbraham, Trinity College; A. Bower, E. Huxtable, J. S. Hoare, John Rigg, G. G. Holmes, *A. Willink, *J. S. Wood, St. John's college; *H. Newport, Pembroke college; R. W. Nourse, R. D. Travers, Caius college; W. W. Howard, Sidney college.

* These three should have been admitted March 23.

Bachelors of Arts.—R. V. Blathwayt, Jos. Ryland, Trinity college; A. C. Clapin, H. P. Gurney, T. Hockin, St. John's college; H. J. Coleman, Corpus college; J. W. Harris, Christ's college; C. C. Anstey, Caius college.

The Burney Prize.—This prize, for the best English essay on some moral or metaphysical subject, on the existence, nature, and attributes of God, or upon the truth and evidence of the Christian religion, has been adjudged to J. Todhunter, B.A., of St. John's College (Senior Wrangler 1848). Subject—"The Doctrine of a Divine Providence is inseparable from the belief in the existence of an absolutely perfect Creator."

THE SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY.

THE Report of the Council at the eighth Annual Meeting, on the 26th ult., is before us, and speaks of the reviving feeling and interest manifested towards the literature of the period embraced by the Society, and ascribes it, in part, to the recent sale of the poet's house at Stratford, and the purchase and engraving of the Chandos portrait. With regard to the former, we learn that 400*l.* is still required to place it in the hands of the national trustees. The proposed fund for the re-publication of Heywood and Dekker's plays has not yet filled sufficiently to warrant the undertaking; but the hope is not abandoned. The state of accounts was tolerably satisfactory; and in the places of Messrs. A. Dyce, Milman, J. Oxenford, Planché, and Sir George Rose retiring from the Council, Messrs. J. Bruce, W. O. Hunt, Swynfen Jervis, Dr. J. Thomson, and Sir E. B. Lytton were elected.

So far all was placid and pleasant enough, but our literary circles are aware of the grand fracas which has broken out between Mr. Payne Collier, the director of the Society and Mr. T. Crofton Croker, on the subject of a publication, with which we made our readers acquainted in the *Literary Gazette*, No. 1673, viz., the lost play of Massinger, edited by the latter gentleman, and published under the auspices of the Percy Society, of which Mr. Croker is an active member, as Mr. Collier is of the Shakespeare. It appears that in the fourth volume of the papers put forth by Messieurs the Council of the Shakespeare, there is an anonymous critique upon this issue of the Percy, which is sharply complained of as a proceeding on the part of one literary society towards another, "calculated to excite ill feeling among the individual members, and ultimately to prove injurious to the interests of such institutions." Mr. Croker's remonstrance is couched in this spirit; and in his little brochure of seventeen pages he strikes out right and left, and gives, it must be owned, some very hard hits. In the first place, he shows that of thirteen charges of editorial incompetency brought against him, ten mistakes (including seven of these) had previously been corrected in errata,* which he adduces in evidence of the fact, and then goes on to analyse the pith of the remaining six.

Mr. Collier writes, March 14th, that he is the responsible editor of the volume in which the attack on Mr. Croker is made, and Lord Ellesmere, the President, in answer to an appeal to him—

"Considers that I (T. C. C.) may very well content myself with the explanation that my corrections were only accidentally anticipated by those of my reviewer," which his Lordship is pleased to add, 'appears to be the fact.'

"As, however, the Shakespeare Society have, according to their President's statement, established a reviewer, and Mr. Payne Collier avows himself to be 'the responsible editor of the last volume of the Shakespeare Society's Papers,' or such review; thus standing forth to challenge criticism, he would, I submit, have no right to complain of any dissection of his edition of 'Shakespeare,' or exposure of printer's blunders upon the supposed detection of which his literary reputation exists, had I any wish to retaliate.

"But I have none; for every one must feel that in all criticism of this kind, involving philological difficulties and debated questions of the nicest character, it is manifestly unfair to select particular instances, and thence infer the general conduct of editorship.

* The Shakespeareans allege that they were anticipated by their critic.

"It would be the easiest task possible, not merely to charge, but to convict, the best authorities, or professionally the most careful editors, of far more important errors than the worst which have been laid to my charge. Let me request any one to turn to Mr. Collier's 'Shakespeare,' vol. vii, p. 332, and direct his attention to that gentleman's entire ignorance of the common grammatical idiom *drink up*, which actually leads him to doubt that vinegar is intended by *evil*, which, being printed with a capital letter, of course implies that Mr. Collier believed that it was the river Yssel to be drunk up! A blunder so momentous as this is the more to be wondered at, when we have the benefit of Gifford's—the honest Gifford's, decisive note on the matter in his edition of 'Ben Jonson,' vol. i., p. 192. And Mr. Collier's error respecting this word is the more extraordinary, because Shakespeare uses it elsewhere in the ordinary sense of vinegar. But the fact is that Mr. Collier's edition of 'Shakespeare'—an author, recollect, most frequently edited, not the first edition from a newly-discovered manuscript—is replete with such oversights and blunders, that I intend discarding it from my library, as an edition likely to put any one out of temper. I will, however, try and keep mine, and avoid retaliation.

"If, therefore, in dealing with the reputation of an eminent critic, a self-satisfied reader, a distinguished antiquary, and an accomplished editor, as the party responsible for the charges urged against my ideal amanuensis, I hope Mr. Payne Collier will feel entirely convinced that I can only act in the same spirit of kindness, conciliation, courtesy, and amiable candour, so evidently displayed by him towards the editor of a 'lost play of Massinger's,' which he certainly himself appeared unable fluently to read when I had the pleasure of submitting the manuscript for his inspection. Indeed it was this evident incompetence on Mr. Collier's part,* that decided me to undertake the laborious task of editorship myself, instead of transferring it to that gentleman, as it was my intention to have done."

Here is another of the retorts courteous:—

"The errata which I detected, while the sheet was at press, in pp. 26, 27, and 28, of *Asorubal* for *Asdrubal*, to which the name was of course subsequently corrected, did not appear to me to be of such importance as to call upon the funds of the Society for the expense of a cancel.

"But what am I not entitled to say to my Critic, or the responsible Editor of the 'Shakespeare Society's papers,' who, upon this obvious misprint of *ol* for *d*, actually, in his charge, asserts that the name '*Asorubal*' should always have been *Asdrubal*. Can Mr. Collier shew to the Shakespeare Society that the name has been or is so printed in the Percy Society's volume, or, as he asserts, with an *o* for a *d*?

"Am I not fairly entitled, then, delicately to inquire, if he, the responsible editor, who cannot read and copy print correctly, may not, in his free and fearless course of editorship, confound an *i* with a *j*, a *c* with a *b*, and heaven knows what else, to suit his own notions of orthography, and imagine a *g*, which might or might not have existed in a manuscript he had seen, could appreciate, but did not understand? And does he not, when commenting upon any literal inaccuracy I may have overlooked in printing the name *Asdrubal*, fairly lay himself open to the retort of having made what would be treated at a police office as a false charge, which, however, I am quite certain no gentleman could intentionally have been guilty of, although I have known such things done by anonymous writers in periodical reviews, and sometimes feel shocked at observing notices of such matters in the newspapers."

* Mr. Collier's knowledge of manuscripts may be gathered from his reading of the account of 'Twelfth Night' from Manningham's Diary, where Malvolio being mentioned, an allusion is made to 'his gestures in smiling;' but Mr. Collier reads (Shakespeare, vol. iii., p. 317) 'his gestures inscribing.' This, be it remembered, is in a short extract from a very legible manuscript, not from a long copy of a very obscure one. It should be added that I derive my knowledge of this momentous blunder from Mr. Hunter's 'New Illustrations of Shakespeare.'"

And again:

"Under the circumstances in which I am placed, I refrain from making any charges, and will confine myself to repelling the remaining six, hitherto unnoticed, brought against my competency as an editor. These in general exhibit a lamentable deficiency of recollection, and a curious want of knowledge, as well as taste, coupled with a love of puerile conjecture. Why, for instance, should my critic be ignorant of the history of the King of Bohemia, and waste so many words in strutting about 'a late and sad example'?"

"The Council of the Percy Society have, however, before them the means of satisfying themselves by reference to the manuscript from which I have edited Massinger's supposed lost play, whether what I shall proceed to state is correct or not; and as no insinuation has been made that I have forged the manuscript, I suppose its genuineness is not doubted by the Shakespeare Society.

"I pass over the erudite remarks offered by my critic for the information of the members of that Society, such as that an *u* was formerly used instead of a *v*; that 'eyes' were often of old spelt 'eies,' &c., because I am quite convinced that every member of the Percy Society must be aware of these facts.

"The doubt expressed as to the interchange of *v* and *u* in manuscripts of this period, in such words as '*vast*,' p. 4, '*lawolta*,' p. 66, &c., is lamentable; I refrain from saying more. Let Mr. Collier turn to his own edition of Shakespeare, vol. vii, p. 209, and he will find that *vast*, in Hamlet, act i, sc. 2, is misprinted *vast* or *waste*, in the old copies, subsequent to that of 1603. And that gentleman attributes it to a 'very easy' compositor's error. Can Mr. Collier shew the arrangement of a printer's case of letters in 1600? Certainly, from what is now supposed to have been the old arrangement of printers' cases, no letters could be less accidentally mistaken than *v* and *w*. In fact, the arrangement seems to have been made to prevent this possibility. For my part, I am inclined to attribute the indiscriminate use of the letters *v* and *w* to a very different cause.

"In the passage 'Theis pulled out,' p. 63, my critic is pleased to assert that 'the word 'eies' has been evidently omitted.' This does not appear to me to be quite so evident; although 'the eyes pulled out' is the evident meaning of the passage, which was written as I have printed it, and, I believe, was so written, to give a quick or passionate expression to the words 'Theis'eis,' the original transcriber having omitted the apostrophe.

"It is stated, and it would appear not without consideration, by my critic, that 'lonely,' at p. 73, is misprinted for 'lovely,' which he endeavours to shew, after explaining certain facts which every member of the Percy Society must at once admit to be perfectly correct, that the turning of the letter *n* forms an *u*, and that *u* was formerly used instead of *v*; adding, rather unnecessarily, as it appears to me, in a tone of triumph, 'such must have been the case.'

"Now, I feel satisfied that such has not been the case, and that I have not only correctly read, but that the printer has correctly rendered the word in question *lonely*: and a more poetical or beautiful reading I cannot conceive. But my critic would drag down Massinger to the level of his own '*lovely*' mind if he could. The meaning of the passage in which the word occurs, may be taken in simple prose as 'So alone, so solitary in you is that feeling of pity.' What can be more dignified? (Remember, they are the words of fallen royalty, addressed to a courtesan); and compare them with the wretched perverseness of 'So lovely, so beautiful in you is that feeling of pity'—which would almost tempt any one to add to such 'must-have-been-the-case' editorship as this, for the completion of the sentence, and 'my darling you are.' * * *

"And now (for we omit some) 'sixthly and lastly, for the word 'inglinge,' p. 16, which my critic asserts 'ought unquestionably to be 'juggling' or 'juggling.' Flaminus is talking to Bercinthus, the priest of Cybele, of the mysteries of his religion.

Surely my critic is ignorant that the mysteries of this goddess were of a character which might justify the epithet given to them by Massinger; but which would have no point if that applied by the Shakespeare Society's reviewer were admitted to be the reading. Of course, the new vice-president of the Society of Antiquaries must be aware of this. 'Inglinge,' however, is unquestionably the word used in the manuscript, and, although Dyce, Gifford, and Halliwell are quoted as authorities to shew that I cannot read or understand correctly a manuscript of the time of Charles I., and the *Athenæum*, therefore, considers me to be an incompetent editor, I think my anonymous critic, or critics, ought not to have omitted to consult Nares, as the respectable authority followed by Mr. Payne Collier in his 'Yssell' draught.

"Shade of Gifford, arise, and defend an honest editor! Arise! and shield the memory of Massinger from the 'juggling mysteries' of the Shakespeare Society!" "T. CROFTON CROKER."

In the office of bottle-holders, we trust to see this made a fair fight, and fought out; the only opinion we shall at present give, being, that we consider it a manifest impropriety for one Literary Society, either by its officers or tools, to step out of its right course for the sake of prejudicing the production of a similar, and not rival Society, and holding up any of its members to ridicule and abuse—especially remembering that all the trouble taken with such works are voluntary contributions to literature, unpaid, and without an idea of reward.

LAYARD'S NINEVEH.

To the American Edition of this work is prefixed a letter by Dr. Edward Robinson, the author of *Biblical Researches in Palestine*, and coming from so good an authority, we think a few passages cannot but be acceptable on this side of the Atlantic:—

"Nineveh, the great city 'of three days' journey' that was 'laid waste and there was none to bemoan her,' whose greatness sank when that of Rome had just begun to rise, now stands forth again to testify to her own splendour, and to the civilization and power and magnificence of the Assyrian empire. This may be said, therefore, to be the crowning historical discovery of the nineteenth century. But the century as yet is only half elapsed.

"Nineveh was destroyed in the year 606 before Christ; less than 150 years after Rome was founded. Her latest monuments, therefore, date back not less than five-and-twenty centuries; while the foundation of her earliest is lost in an unknown antiquity. When the ten thousand Greeks marched over this plain in their celebrated retreat (400 B.C.) they found in one part a ruined city called Larissa; and in connexion with it, Xenophon, their leader and historian, describes what is now the pyramid of Nimroud. But he heard not the name of Nineveh; it was already forgotten on its site; though it appears again in later Greek and Roman writers. Even at that time the widely extended walls and ramparts of Nineveh had perished; and mounds covering magnificent palaces alone remained at the extremities of the ancient city, or in its vicinity, much as at the present day. Of the site of Nineveh there is scarcely a further mention, beyond the brief notices of Benjamin of Tudela and Abulfeda, until Niebulur saw it and described its mounds nearly a century ago. In 1820 Mr. Rich visited the spot; he obtained a few square sun-dried bricks with inscriptions, and some other slight remains; and we can all remember the profound impression made upon the public mind even by these cursory memorials of Nineveh and Babylon. We first hear of Mr. Layard in 1840; when, after having in the preceding year travelled with a single companion through all Syria, we find him in company with Mr. Ainsworth visiting the mounds of Kalah Sherghat, and the ruins of el Hather, the ancient Hatra in the desert.

"Besides the specimens of beautiful glass and the pulley found at Nimroud, an unexpected discovery is that of the arch. The importance of this rests, not so much perhaps in the mere circumstance of a single small vaulted chamber, as in the fact brought out by

Mr. Layard, that 'arched gateways are continually represented in bas-reliefs.' It follows that the arch was well known before the Jewish exile, and at least seven or eight centuries before the time of Herod. Diodorus Siculus also relates, that the tunnel from the Euphrates at Babylon, ascribed to Semiramis, was vaulted (Hist. ii. 9). All this serves to remove the difficulty, still felt by some, in respect to the antiquity of the vaults still existing under the site of the temple at Jerusalem.

"Permit me to add a few words relating to the Nestorian Christians, with whom Mr. Layard came in contact, as above mentioned.

"Mr. Layard gives usually to this whole people the name of *Chaldeans*. In so doing I cannot help feeling that he goes further than the historical facts warrant. As a Christian people, there is little, and perhaps no evidence, that they bore this appellation before the submission of a portion of them in modern times to Papal authority.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

April 21st.—Professor H. H. Wilson in the chair. The Secretary read a paper by Captain Newbold, on the tombs of the Amalekites. In the year 1846, Captain Newbold, in the course of a walk in the vicinity of Jerusalem, found some rough stone structures, which his Arab guide called *Kabir ul Amalekeh*, or tombs of the Amalekites. These structures are five in number. They are situated on the slope of a hill at the village of Jiboa, the Gibeah of Saul, about seven miles north-east of Jerusalem, and are described by Captain Newbold as long, low, massive, rectangular buildings, constructed of large rough blocks of limestone, as grey, and apparently as time-worn, as the limestone rocks on which they are built. They are very dissimilar to the comparatively modern tombs of Syria, resembling more closely the long tombs which cover catacombs at the base of the Pyramids in Egypt. In one of the tombs, which measured 98½ by 16 feet, and from 15½ to 7 feet high, there is an aperture or chamber measuring 14 feet by 5½, and 4 feet 4 inches high, which was found to be perfectly empty. There is also near the end of the same tomb a shaft sunk through the roof, reaching to the base of the building. It is possible that these structures were intended to cover the entrance into subterranean vaults; but this is a point which it is difficult to decide upon without making excavations; and the writer is of opinion, from their traditional name, and from their resemblance to the long tombs of the ancient Egyptians, that they may have been constructed by that ancient people "Amalek, the first of the nations," and that they probably mark the position of the Mount of the Amalekites mentioned in the book of Judges, ch. v. 15. The country of the Amalekites extended to the borders of Egypt, and the writer thinks it is more than probable that, from a tribe of this powerful nation, under the name of Hyksos, sprang the dynasty of Shepherd kings which ruled Egypt prior to the time of Abraham. Mr. Norris read an extract of a letter from Mr. Layard, who is now at Constantinople, in which that gentleman adverted to the very discrepant accounts left us by the ancients of the history of Assyria. It may be premised that the usual authorities place Ninus, with his wife Semiramis, about 2000 years before the Christian era, and give him a succession of some thirty or forty kings, whose reigns extend from 1200 to 1400 years, making average reigns of thirty to forty years each, a length inconsistent with the experience of every monarchy known. Another account, handed down to us by Eusebius, from the historian Polyhistor, contained in a few lines only, places forty-five kings between Semiramis and the close of the empire, with a very probable duration of 526 years only, thus making that queen's reign more recent by 700 or 900 years than the usual accounts; but then he gives a dynasty of nine Arab kings, with a duration of 265 years, as predecessors of Semiramis, and an earlier Chaldean dynasty of forty-nine kings, reigning 458 years. The united dynasties of Polyhistor, it will be seen, form a period of 1220 years, differing very little from the number

given in some of the usual authorities; and this coincidence has suggested to Mr. Layard the idea that the three dynasties of Polyhistor, who gives numbers only, and no name, are in fact identical with the thirty-six or forty kings of the ordinary lists, and he very ingeniously shows that the names of those lists indicate three different dynasties. The statement that Balatres, the nineteenth name in the lists, overthrew the Derceitides, naturally places this king at the head of the second division; and the nine names which follow will be the representatives of Polyhistor's nine Arab kings. We have, then, from Thimæus to Sardanapalus, a period which, according to Syncellus, amounts to 480 years, less by forty-six only than the numbers given for the Assyrian dynasty of Polyhistor—a trifling discrepancy in reference to such remote periods, which would be nearly compensated by supposing that one account referred to the beginning, and the other to the end of the reign of Semiramis, which is stated to have extended to forty-two years. The above is but a slight sketch of the argument; and Mr. Layard would, without doubt, be able to support it by much additional evidence, which could not be compressed into a brief letter, not intended for publication. It has the advantage of reconciling the statement of Herodotus—the usual date of Ninus, as founder of an Assyrian monarchy—the confusion of the different Ninuses—and the chronology of the Bible. We have only to object to it, the name of Semiramis placed between the Arab and Assyrian dynasties by Polyhistor, the confirmation of this position by Herodotus, whose period of 520 years agrees so nearly with that of Polyhistor, and the great improbability that so many successive monarchs could have reigned extending to such a long period. The total omission of the name of Ninus, both by Herodotus and Polyhistor, rather tends to confirm Mr. Layard's view, that the name of this monarch should be placed somewhere about 2000 years before our era, but, if the name be a reality, and not a myth, at the head of a much longer series of monarchs than historians have given as his successors.

BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

April 27th.—Public Meeting.—Mr. Pettigrew, Vice-President, in the chair. From the thin attendance, it appeared to be generally understood that the important communication to the Association from M. Boucher de Perthes, and which we mentioned in our last *Gazette*, had been postponed. The statement made by the chairman confirmed this supposition. An inscribed bronze buckle and an iron key, which had been found at Boulogne-sur-Mer, under circumstances which might have induced an opinion that they were Roman remains, were exhibited by Mr. Charles Kennedy. Mr. Syer Cuming observed, that the buckle was evidently a work of the fifteenth century, when inscribed sword-belts, and other articles of personal equipment, were fashionable. He read the inscription, *hab:m*. The key was in such a state of decomposition, that it was difficult, he conceived, to appropriate it correctly. Mr. Price agreed with Mr. Cuming in the appropriation of the buckle, but he read the inscription *har:m*, which, however, he was unable to explain, and he considered the key to be not more than two centuries old, (1050,) judging from its shape and material. In this opinion several members concurred. Mr. Keet made some severe observations respecting the coins said recently to have been purloined from the British Museum; and the chairman observed, that he believed the law would be left to take its course. He then announced, that the arrangements for the Chester Congress of the Association in August had been under the consideration of the Council, by whom a Committee had been appointed.* Mr. Crofton Croker stated, that the Lord Bishop of Chester would be the patron of the Congress; and that among the Vice-Presidents were the Dean and Chancellor of Chester, Sir Piers Mostyn, Bart.; F. R. West, Esq., M.P.; Major-

* We are enabled to state that the Congress Meeting at Chester has been fixed to commence on Monday the 30th of July next.

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Meeting

General Egerton, Colonel Philips, Colonel Myddleton Biddulph, the Rev. J. Y. Dod, James Folliott, and James Mainwaring; Messrs. J. W. Tatton, Wilbraham Tollemache, George Wilbraham, Simon Yorke, Townshend Mainwaring, C. Dundas, Brownlow Wynn, Bamford Hesketh, J. Jesse, F.R.S.; Perryn William Atkinson, G. Folliott, and Hurlestone Leche. Mr. Planché then read a paper respecting the arms engraved upon a circular plate of brass, exhibited to the meeting by Mr. C. Roach Smith, which were, quarterly, those of Toulouse and France. He stated that the only persons, so far as he had been able to discover, who by right could bear such arms, were Alphonse, Count of Poitiers, sixth son of Louis VIII., king of France, born in 1220, who married the only daughter and heiress of Raymond, the eighth Count of Toulouse, and who, in 1251, took possession of that country in right of his wife, but who died without issue in 1271. But it was observed by Mr. Planché, that the custom of quartering has not yet been traced to so early a period; and Alphonse is represented on his seal with the arms of France impaling Castile, (those of his mother.) On the death of his wife, who survived Alphonse only four days, Philip le Hardy, King of France, seized the county of Toulouse, and his successors inherited it "as Counts of Toulouse, not as Kings of France," until the reign of John, who incorporated it and other possessions, in 1351, with the royal dominions. John, King of France, was taken prisoner at the battle of Poitiers, five years afterwards, and brought to London by Edward the Black Prince; he remained in this metropolis till 1360, and after his liberation returned to England, where he died at the Savoy Palace, 8th April, 1364. Mr. Planché added, that the ornament in question can be dated as early as the middle of the fourteenth century, but he thinks not before that, and therefore considers it probable that it might have formed part of the horse furniture of John as Count of Toulouse, other similar plates being engraved with the separate arms of the various duchies, such as Burgundy and Normandy, &c., incorporated by him with his kingdom. Reference was then made to a plate of the same character, exhibited by Mr. Goddard Johnson, of Norwich, and smaller plates. All of them have a ring or loop of metal on the top, apparently for the purpose of suspension, and the prevailing opinion that they were attached as ornaments to the harness or caparisons of horses, is most probably the correct one. The two exhibited to the British Archaeological Association were stated to be the largest and most elaborately engraved specimens known, and have evidently been enamelled and gilt. The Chairman announced that he had received a communication from one of their vice-presidents, Sir Gardner Wilkinson, bearing date March 22nd, from Upper Egypt, stating that he had been up as far as Gebel Berkel, and had found some interesting things, although the country was very mountainous and ugly in itself. He had derived much satisfaction from studying the character of the ancient Egyptian fortifications on the frontier, as they give a perfect insight into their system of defence as laid down by the Vanban of the Osirians. He had made examinations all the way up to the old level of the alluvial deposit of the Nile, before the fall of the cataracts of Assuan, which was first observed by Dr. Lepsius, in consequence of his finding the old Nilometers (or rather notices of the rise of the Nile) at Samneh. Sir Gardner's repeated visit to Egypt has enabled him to accumulate important and satisfactory materials for his intended work on Egyptian architecture, which, from such an authority, cannot fail of being highly interesting.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday—Entomological, 8 p.m.—British Architects, (Anniversary) 8 p.m.—Chemical, 8 p.m.—Medical, 8 p.m.—Pathological, 8 p.m.
Tuesday—Medical and Chirurgical, 8½ p.m.—Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—Zoological, 9 p.m.—Syro-Egyptian, 7½ p.m.
Wednesday—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—Graphic, 8 p.m.—Literary Fund, 3 p.m.—Archæological Association, (Council Meeting), 8½ p.m.—Royal Botanic, (Promenade), 3½ p.m.

Thursday—Royal, 8½ p.m.—Antiquaries, 8 p.m.—Royal Society of Literature, 4 p.m.
Friday—Astronomical, 8 p.m.—Royal Institution, (Dr. Pettigrew on the Mechanism and Functions of the Organ of Voice in Man; with the introduction of a case of double Utterance), 8½ p.m.—Philological, 8 p.m.
Saturday—Asiatic, (Anniversary), 2 p.m.—Royal Botanic, 3½ p.m.—Horticultural, (Exhibition day at Chiswick.)

FINE ARTS.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

THE forty-fifth exhibition of the Old Society was opened to the public on Monday, and great was the gratification experienced by the numerous visitors at the excellent display of pictures on the walls; indeed, there are so many works of the foremost description, that it is not easy to make selections for a first notice—especially as many of the paintings require mature study and deliberation, before an opinion ought to be pronounced. The magic word "Sold" is affixed to the corner of at least one half of them; and this is at once an evidence, not only of the general merits of the pictures, but also of the taste and judgment displayed by the purchasers. The walls are rich in landscapes, by Copley Fielding, the Fripps, De Wint, Cox, Bentley, Richardson, Nesfield, Nash, Turner, Callow, Branwhite, Rayner, Evans, and others. Bartholomew has some superb flower-pieces, more like enamel than water-colours; Prout and Cattermole some admirable interiors; Mrs. Criddle, Wright, Topham, &c., some capital pieces of genre; and there are specimens of a superior order of nearly all the varieties of painting of which water-colours are capable. Some of the marine views are of great merit, and in a large number of the pictures the atmospheric effects are given with wonderful truthfulness; indeed, considering how many works some of the artists have contributed, it is astonishing that there should be such a general excellence, so little of mediocrity, and so small an amount of bad, in an exhibition numbering 365 works of art—one for every day in the year—contributed by forty-five artists.

With this general notice, we shall, for this week, content ourselves, and go into all necessary details in future numbers; merely adding that the Exhibition is highly creditable to British art and artists, and a most gratifying one to the connoisseur.

NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS.

No. 119, Another "Towing-path, near Hammersmith Bridge, looking towards Putney," G. Howse, has many good points.

No. 124, "On the Darent, near Horton," J. H. D'Evilley, is a beautifully little picture with the desirable grey effect. 128, "View from the Horn, looking towards Minehead, Somerset," is another clever drawing by the same.

No. 132, "Happy as a Queen," E. H. Corbould—a beautifully painted figure of a young harvesting girl, with the rich corn on her head—

"Of autumn's rich store I bring home my part.
The weight on my head, but light joy in my heart."

The distance and middle ground too blue for the general colouring of the figure, which is weakened by the strength of the background. It is a very pleasing picture, and sold.

No. 135, "The Hop Garden," is a very charming picture, by Mr. Fahey, full of beautiful colouring, and very interesting to all who have ever witnessed the merry and picturesque scene of hop-picking; the luxuriant graceful climbing plant, with its fantastic "bines" and hanging blossoms, is our best set off against the rich vineyards of Italy. This little picture is so richly coloured, that it would not be a bad pendant for Uwin's well-remembered "Gathering in the Vineyard."

No. 137, "Salisbury, looking towards the Poultry Market," Thomas S. Boys, is a very nice picture; the buildings are beautifully executed.

No. 138, "Evening on the Thames," H. C. Pidgeon, represents a fine effect.

No. 144, "Spearing Salmon in North Wales," is another fine work, by J. H. Mole, sweet and pleasing

in colour and treatment. The figure of the woman is not so easy and natural as we should like for such a group.

No. 148, "A Nook on the Thames," D. H. M'Kewan, has a beautiful Ruysdael look about it, very delightful.

No. 151, "The Valley of St. John, Cumberland—Saddleback in the distance," Aaron Penley, is one of this clever artist's most happy little bits, quite enough to make one forget the *ennui* of a wet, miserable day, with its perfectly natural effect of warm clear grey, and its brilliant sunny mist filling the valley.

No. 154, "From the Conservatory at Tedworth," a very refreshing beautiful bouquet, and as exquisitely painted by Fanny Harris, as it is tastefully arranged with nice careful carelessness. The execution is pure, and marked by great freedom.

No. 158, "Quietude," charmingly rendered by C. Davidson's nice quiet retreat—a grassy bank, shaded by fine solemn trees, and a "bubbling brook" to lull the thoughts.

No. 160, "The Murderers of Thomas Chase of Amersham drawing up the Letter to the Clergy," E. H. Corbould, and quite his *chef d'œuvre*. It is a great example of the power of water colours. The depth and brilliancy, albeit got by all the resources of the art, are very remarkable; the armour and the iron-safe are fine in their solid and shining appearance. The girl in shadow listening to the plots of the murderers is finely done, and well conceived, for it brings out the tale against the group of violent-looking fellows round the table—a very skillfully-arranged group, with a red churchman as chief plotter: it is a masterly effort, and done with perfect success.

No. 162, "Scene at the Little Nore—Sheerness in the distance," is another of T. S. Robins' beautiful sea-pieces, and must not be passed by.

No. 165, "A View from Clifton Downs—Sunset," W. Bennett. The brilliant effect of the sky and the light upon the cliffs is beautifully managed.

No. 166, "Twilight,"—

"The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,"

Aaron Penley—a subject very often painted, but rarely with such success as here. The quiet evening effect is very pleasing, and the masses of dark foliage finely contrasted against the light sky. It reminds us of Hobbima.

No. 168, "The Corn-riggs sae bonny," C. Davidson, possesses the perfectly natural daylight effect only to be got by painting in the fields.

No. 180, "Shrimp Fishers getting under weigh—Thames," T. S. Robins, is full of nature and beauty. The flapping look of the sails is most cleverly given, and adds no small appearance of life and motion to the piece.

No. 183, A fine battle piece, "The Charge of the 3rd Dragoons at Moodkhee, and Capture of the Sikh Battery," M. Angelo Hayes. It exhibits great skill and very happy knack at such a peculiarly difficult subject. Mr. Hayes is, we believe, a new contributor.

No. 185, "Peace," E. H. Welner, is very fine in colour, but does not, to our notions, give a fair idea of the artist's powers, so well known by his previous works. The general blue and yellow tone of the picture is gaudy; and the clouds form very objectionable masses, as if made of clay rather than thin vapour.

No. 191, "Rouen, from the Heights of St. Catherine," T. L. Rowbotham, jun., is by another new contributor of great talent. In this fine drawing, the effect of a view from an eminence, so difficult to get, is admirably got.

Nos. 192 and 182, "Panoramic Views from the Theatre Faormina, Sicily," C. Vacher, are very fine in effect and colour—the sky particularly brilliant.

No. 199, "A Welsh River," D. H. M'Kewan. This picture is remarkable for its force; the projecting rock is finely brought out, and without the use of body colour.

No. 217, "Woudricken, on the Meuse," G. Howse, is a very clever picture, in nice natural colour.

No. 221, "The Piazza of St. Peter's, on the Morning of the Benediction, Rome," is the masterpiece of

C. Vacher in this gallery; it exhibits all his great power in giving a glorious effect of sunlight. The receding crowds of figures are beautifully represented in excellent perspective. The subject is treated with great skill, and the work is altogether interesting, both from its historical character, and its merits as a work of art.

No. 223, "The Express Train—Twilight," H. Mapstone, is a very beautiful bit of colour, and quite a captivating little picture. We remember, too, another evening effect, 20, "Hastings Castle;" and a morning effect, "On the Thames at Richmond," equally worthy of attention for the truth and thorough feeling for nature displayed in them.

SUFFOLK STREET GALLERY.

In Mr. Shayer's pictures we find everything that is sweet and charming to the eye, composed with taste and executed with finish and delicacy. 56, "Going to the Meadows;" 114, "Looking out for Fishing-boats, coast of Sussex," very rich in colour; 228, "Near the Deer-leap, New Forest;" 364, "The Corn-field;" and 477, "A Wood Scene, with Cattle and Figures," are amongst the best in his usual style. 393, called "Stable Friends," being a bay and a white pony, with some goats and bantams, is remarkable in finish, and altogether a pleasing picture.

Mr. Clint is fond of the luxury of colour, but shows a great feeling for simple nature in several beautiful works. A pair of little studies 64 and 66, are excellent examples of this; and 224, "Landscape—Evening," has a nice melancholy air about it, very charming. 365, "Burlington Quay, Coast of Yorkshire;" 487, "On the Coast, near Boulogne," are charming pictures too.

The pictures of J. C. Ward are remarkable for a quiet, natural tone of grey, and are, besides, exceedingly well handled; as in 71, "Coast near Brodick Bay, Isle of Arran," of which there are three views, all excellent; 263, "A Highland Loch," and 406, "Glen Tannox," also capital pictures.

No. 57, "My wife this day puts on her first French gown, called a sac, which becomes her very well."—*Pepys's Diary*. On this Mr. J. Noble has painted a picture full of character.

58, "On the Thames—Early Morning," is a very agreeable picture, by R. H. Hilditch.

79, "The Rival Suitors," is a very clever picture, the tale well told; a sailor returned from India, is showing his presents from abroad to a pretty country girl, who does not see much to admire in such odd things; while the young farmer turning his back, tries to show a great contempt for his rival; it is by H. J. Pidding.

Mr. A. Montague is amongst the first of the landscape painters of this society; his works are always characterized by a strict study of nature, consequently they are never wanting in the qualities which that alone can give. 197, "A Dutch Port—Morning," is one of his happiest, beautiful and Cuypp-looking in effect, and the boats and figures admirably done. 407, "Dutch Market Boats at Dort," is equally remarkable for the same excellent characteristics.

Mr. J. C. Ward's landscapes also show the careful student; their generally quiet tone of colour is sentimental and pleasing; they may, perhaps, be open to the criticism of being tame in colour, but this is, to our notions, rather a good tendency in landscape. His views on the coast of the Isle of Arran are all good; it appears to be a delightful spot for the painter, for there are no fewer than five pictures from it. 263, "The Highland Loch," is also an excellent picture.

The pictures by the Wilsons, J. Wilson and J. Wilson, jun., both members of the society, will be remarked as very pleasing. 87, "Off the Coast of Holland," J. W., jun.; 101, "High Trees Farm—Winter," J. W., jun.; 154, "A Highland Glen," J. W.; 166, "Allington Castle, Kent;" 241, "Off the Coast of Holland," J. W.; and 484, "Cornfield near Reigate," J. W., jun., may be pointed out as their best. The last, by J. W., jun., is a very pleasing picture—grey and nature like. 471, "A Water Mill—Winter," is another remarkable picture by J. W., jun.

Mr. J. J. Hill's, 67, "A Revel"—

"Our fire on the turf, and our tent 'neath a tree,
Carousing and dancing how merry are we,"

A capital subject, and, from the great talent shown in other smaller works, we should have expected would have been treated more successfully. Some of the figures are cleverly grouped and original in design, but many of those dancing in the background are too conventional, and remind one too closely of the old masters. The execution is not so careful as in his smaller works, which are all very superior productions in the Mulready style. 243, "A Boy scaring the Birds," is a capital figure full of life and rustic nature; 400, "Child and Kitten;" and 418, "A Welsh Rustic," are also beautiful little works full of fine finish and true colouring.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Paris, Thursday, May 3rd, 1849.

Politics and Literature cannot, it seems, flourish together. The political strife and din caused by the approaching elections have completely paralysed literary activity—there have been, during the last fortnight, pamphlets innumerable, but no books. It is really lamentable to see so much talent, time, paper, ink, and money wasted over *brochures*, which are either not read at all, or, if read, instantly thrown aside and forgotten. One of the gravest accusations hereafter brought against the Revolution will be, that it has dragged down, or cast into the deadly shade of public neglect, all writers of popularity and eminence, and yet brought forward no others to take their places. As has been before remarked, the political convulsion of February contrasts in this respect most disadvantageously with its predecessor of 1830. The "three glorious days of July," as they are called, were for France the beginning of a new literary era; it is from them that several of her most renowned authors date their rise, or the rapid spread of their fame. The "glorious days of 1849," on the contrary, appear rather the close of a brilliant literary era than the beginning of a new one—they have, thus far at least, called from the vasty deep of obscurity no new genius, nor have they aided any in the struggle for celebrity. 1830 gave France and Europe "books that are books"—1849 has given nothing but pamphlets.

The French have always had a great passion for *Mémoires* by eminent or notorious personages; and it must be confessed, that they possess many very valuable specimens of that class of literature—more and better than any other nation. But of late years memoir-writing has been sadly overdone. Generals, ambassadors, ministers, authors, actors, kings, policemen, revolutionists, ladies of frail virtue, convicts—all have written their memoirs; not a man, indeed, whose name ever occupied for a moment the attention of the public—not one who ever fancied himself in some way distinguished from the common run, but has inflicted his memoirs on the world. Vidocq, the thief-taker, thought himself as much entitled to publish his as Chateaubriand, the statesman and the genius. Unfortunately, the memoir-writing mania still continues to rage as virulently as ever; in some of the best literary periodicals there are two or three batches now in course of publication, and Heaven only knows how many others are threatened in the periodical or collected form. The Revolution has of course added greatly to the intensity of this dreadful malady; we may apprehend that at least five out of every ten of the people who have played, or are playing, a part on the public stage since that event, will rush into print with their silly souvenirs.

Every repetition of the *Prophet* increases the public admiration, and draws forth fresh praises from the musical critics. A collection of the criticisms on this great production would be very curious; it would be found to contain, I should imagine, every laudatory term in the language. Berlioz of the *Débats*, Theophile Gautier of the *Presse*, the critic of *Galignani's Messenger*, all join most heartily in the enthusiasm expressed by their lesser colleagues. The last mentioned, specially admires the "orchestral combinations of Meyerbeer," which he says, "place him at the head of all composers, living or dead;" and he declares that "his inventive resources are as wonderful as they are inexhaustible." Subsequent auditions have, as is always the case in a great musical composition, caused beauties to be admired which at first had passed unnoticed; and, what is not always the case, have confirmed or increased the admiration expressed at particular parts on the first hearing. A drinking song in the third act, between the three *Anabaptists* and the Count—

"Vivez, vivez, frères!
Le doux choc des verres
Fait les cœurs sincères
Et les vrais amis!"

is particularly admired, as is also a cavatina by Madame Viardot in the last act. This act is mainly dependent on Madame Viardot for its triumphant success.

To the revolution we are indebted for the introduction of singing and music in *cafés*, a species of public amusement similar to your Cider Cellars, Shades, and singing taverns. It is a debated question whether such things encourage or degrade art—elevate or pervert public taste: but they have at least one merit which none can deny—they give bread to many poor wretches, who, without them, would probably starve. And to be just, they seem likely, in Paris at least, to be the means of introducing real *artistes* to the world. Already has one of them brought into notice a young man who, as singer and actor, bids fair at no distant day to take a lofty position; some of the most eminent critics even go so far as to ascribe to him the Divine gift of genius, and to demand in consequence his immediate removal to a scene more worthy of him, than the platform of the estaminet.

For some time after the revolution, political caricaturing excited little attention; and truth to speak, our caricaturists seemed to want either the talent or the disposition to avail themselves of the liberty of ridiculing public personages by the pencil—a liberty rigorously refused during the latter years of Louis Philippe's reign, though with strange inconsistency the pen was left free. Of late, however, political caricatures have greatly increased in number, talent, spirit, and popularity. Cham and Daumier are our two principal performers in that walk; and both display vast ability as artists, with great powers of satire, and at times brilliant wit. To Cham (he is really, as his name implies, a son of Noë—of Noë, however, the ex-peer, not the gentleman of the ark) the greatest honour is due, though he is the junior of H. D. Of his productions we may say, with truth, the exact contrary of what Martial said of his epigrams, for most are good, only some middling, and few indeed are positively bad. The wit he displays is much more remarkable than his artistic execution, and it is astonishing to see him meet, with unflinching spirit, the daily demands on it. Daumier, on the contrary, is more distinguished for powerful execution than for satire, though nearly all his caricatures are smart, and some are telling. Both these eminent artists publish their works in the *Charivari*; and it is they alone who keep up the circulation of that once famous and terrible journal. M. Philippon, who was so noted at one time for his caricatures on Louis Philippe, publishes *Le Journal pour Rire*, a sort of *Charivari* or *Punch*; but on the whole, neither M. Philippon nor his assistants ply the pencil with the ability or success of Cham and Daumier.

NOTES FROM ABROAD.

Alboni has been singing at the opera at Bordeaux with immense success, with a young man named De Layran, as *Fernand*—(Letter from Bordeaux.) We presume that our great contralto has thus achieved new laurels in the celebrated rôle of *Grisi*, in the *Favorita*, for which she has the additional merit of singing in French.

Dr. S. Enlicher, Professor of Botany at Vienna, and author of several important works on that science, including the "Genera Plantarum Secundum Ordines Naturale Deposita," died lately at Vienna.

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SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

PHILANTHROPIC FARM SCHOOL.

THE ceremony of laying the first stone of this building, the nature of which we stated in the *Literary Gazette* of April 21st, in the hope that it might increase the number of its patrons, was performed on Monday, by Prince Albert, with the heavenly aid of one of the most lovely and auspicious days of which our variable climate enables us to boast, in the course of the annual 365. Everything seemed to conspire as if in unison with the benevolence of the purpose. A distinguished company was assembled in a spacious tent, round three sides of which seats were raised, the fourth side being open to the procession, and the centre occupied in the Masonic ritual, under the superintendence of the Duke of Richmond, an eminent Mason. Sacred music was chanted, and an impressive prayer impressively delivered by the Bishop of Winchester, and His Royal Highness spread the mortar, deposited the coins, plate, and documentary inscriptions, poured on the corn, oil, and wine, applied the level and the square, and thrice struck each of the four corners of the stone, with a spirit and accuracy that would have done honour to a Grand Master—which we regret to think he is not, nor as yet in the way to be—and so finished the laying of a foundation which deserves to be memorable among the humane and Christian efforts of our age to redeem a portion of the unfortunate outcasts of society from a dismal fate, arising out of crime for which no well-informed and reflecting man can consider the great majority of them morally responsible. For our own parts, we deem it would be quite as reasonable to thrust a person from the top of a Russian mount, and say, "Do not descend," as to bring up nine-tenths of these wretched beings in the ways they are brought up, and thrust upon the world, and bid them be honest and virtuous, not to steal, not to go down to sin and the valley of death. The boys intended for the farming experiment, and emigration as agriculturists, were habited in smock-frocks, and a number of lads who had passed with credit through the school, and been taught useful trades at the Philanthropic Institution, in St. George's Fields, in the decent dresses becoming a decent class of mechanics, were marched into the presence of the Prince, and one of them read a suitable address, to which His Royal Highness replied with much feeling.

At the conclusion, His Royal Highness departed by special train for Buckingham Palace, and a numerous party assembled under the presidency of the Duke of Richmond, to partake of a handsome dejeuner provided by Mr. Relfe, of the White Hart hotel, Reigate, under a marquee erected for the occasion. The customary toasts called up his Grace frequently and efficiently, the Bishop of Winchester, Lord Harrowby, the Lord Mayor, Captain Williams, Captain Gladstone, and ought to have brought forward the chaplain and secretary, Mr. Sydney Turner, upon whom both the Duke and the Bishop bestowed the highest eulogies for those judicious and indefatigable exertions by which he has mainly contributed to bring this blessed charity into a condition of permanent prosperity, and now of more extended promise. The farm is called Redstone Hill, and is on a pretty acclivity, with a fine view over the adjacent country. The land appeared to be capable of much industrial improvement, though it looked gracious in the splendid sunshine, and with a crowd of the surrounding inhabitants grouped along the spots where they could command a sight of the scene, with its processions, waving flags, and other gay accompaniments. It consists of 133 acres, and is taken on lease for 150 years. Fifty boys can now be accommodated and instructed, and 120 or 130 more may be added. On that space, and in that time, what a mass of human sterility and evil may be redeemed—how much more than the barrenness and weeds of the worst of soils! And may we not further hope that this is but the beginning of a system which every county in Britain may imitate with incalculably beneficial effects, with an immense saving of county rates, and a more glorious saving of immortal souls? Well is it worth the while of princes and prelates, of Government and the Church, of the rich and the poor,

of the nation and the people, to ponder on these things. Sure we are, if they do so, progress will not only be certain and widely spread, but that it will also be much more rapid than great movements in the social sphere can usually hope to be.

The South-Eastern Railway Directors contributed every facility in their power to the comforts and enjoyments of the day.

It was a matter of regret to many, that the return train had been fixed for so early an hour (six o'clock); and that the gay proceedings of the day were thus rather abruptly terminated. The shortness of the time appropriated to the breakfast explains probably what struck us as an important omission in the toasts proposed—viz., that the treasurer's health was not given. All who are acquainted with the labours of the Philanthropic, know how much the remarkable progress it has lately made has been due to the indefatigable exertions of Mr. Gladstone, who, in the event of Monday, had reason to rejoice in having added another to the many claims which the distinguished family he belongs to have on their countrymen's respect.

BURIAL IN TOWNS AND CHURCHES.

THE Earl of Carlisle in the House of Lords, and Lord John Russell personally to Mr. Mackinnon, have given assurance of a Government measure, to be proposed before the close of the present session of Parliament, for putting an end to this much condemned practice. To come to a fair compromise with the clergy is the chief difficulty; and a statistical correspondent of ours takes rather a novel view of this question. He observes, the London livings are benefited,—

1st. By the fees on intramural burials from natural causes (hypothetically) to the annual amount of say . . .	£5000	0	0	
2nd. By the additional fees from deaths and burials, produced by infection from the foregoing, say only . . .	1500	0	0	
Total . . .	£6500	0	0	
3rd. Deduct proportion of marriage fees lost in consequence of deaths in category No. 2, . . .	£75	0	0	
4th. Births, ditto, ditto, . . .	15	0	0	
		90	0	
		£6410	0	0

Leaving a clear annual profit of £1410.

But as the burial fees are the last paid and final, and marriages and births continue from year to year successively, the real profit is by no means to be estimated at so high a rate.

The lessors and lessees of Grave Yards are in a better position, for as they neither marry people nor christen infants, all the increased mortality (with the smallest possible decrease from not having the possible children to inter) is extra revenue to their establishments.

Undertakers are also benefited in the same degree by the existing system; to whom must be added the manufacturers of mourning hat-bands, breeders of long-tailed black horses, grave-diggers, &c. &c., all which classes, enjoying vested interests in un-sanitary customs, ought in justice to have compensation for their losses, occasioned by any ministerial or legislative interference.

BROMPTON HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION.

THIS charity had, as we anticipated from its programme, a brilliant field-day on Wednesday, at the Albion Tavern, Mr. Disraeli in the chair, supported by M. Guizot and a company of nearly two hundred persons, including, at the top table, Lord Feversham and several distinguished Members of Parliament and other gentlemen of social influence. To the toast of "the Church" the Rev. R. Montgomery replied in a feeling manner, and modestly touched upon his own exertions in behalf of the hospital, which the chairman stated had realized no less a sum than 1000*l*. The Report, read by Mr. Philip Rose, gave a favourable view of the progress of the charity—there being

now accommodation for 87 in-patients. Since the opening, in November, 1846, 676 had been admitted, whereof 129 had died; and during the past year the admissions were 282, deaths 52—a sad proportion; but latterly, i. e. since 1st January, the per centage had been far more favourable (owing to what causes was not mentioned), the deaths amounting to only 11, or one-ninth, out of 95 patients. The daily average number of persons relieved was 115. The proceeds of Jenny Lind's concert (1600*l*.) were commented upon with due applause, and other liberal contributions were not forgotten in the summary. In proposing the toast of the evening—"Prosperity to the Hospital"—Mr. Disraeli pronounced an address which occupied an hour and a half in delivery; which, though rather of the longest for a post-prandial oration—with the hearers all round with bumper glasses in hand—was so eloquent and interesting as not to be felt too heavy for the occasion. He was succeeded by M. Guizot, almost every sentence from whom made a point, and was received with loud cheers. Other toasts followed in succession, and again called forth the genius of the chairman, as well as other individuals; and the gratifying result of all was a subscription of above 1,700*l*! A number of ladies graced the festival with their presence.

BIOGRAPHY.

SAMUEL MAUNDER.

WE have the sorrowful task to announce the death, on Monday, the 30th April, of this truly excellent man, and most meritorious writer, at his house in Gibson-square, Islington. It was but the other day, (see *Literary Gazette*, No. 1063,) that, in speaking of his portraits, then published by Messrs. Longman and Co., we seized the occasion to offer a few remarks upon the great usefulness of his literary career, and his worth as a friend, whom we had known well, and esteemed much, for many a year. Mr. Maunder was the brother-in-law of William Pinnock, (who married his sister,) and who was so justly celebrated for the course he opened and pursued with such ardour in regard to books for educational purposes. Pinnock's catechisms will never be forgotten when education is treated of; and in their production Maunder was the true workman, to whom the youth of England were chiefly indebted for their instruction; and also for those of a historical kind, which were no less skillfully and admirably edited. Pinnock had, no doubt, the honour of the original design; but he was of too enthusiastic and speculative a character to settle fixedly to any one object, however large; and the profitable trade in his own catechisms and histories (worth several thousand pounds a year) was insufficient to satisfy his ambition; and he diverted his mind from this certain fortune for other schemes, which ended in the confusion of all, and his own ruin. Meanwhile, the honest and painstaking Maunder kept steadily on. During several of the early years of the *Gazette*, (while Pinnock and Maunder were its publishers,) and occasionally since, he has contributed his aid to its columns; but the solid business of his life was addressed to the compilation of those most useful and invaluable volumes, which Messrs. Longman have from time to time brought out under the well-deserved titles of "Maunder's Treasury of Useful Knowledge," "Maunder's Treasury of History," "Maunder's Scientific and Literary Treasury," "Maunder's Treasury of Natural History," "Maunder's Biographical Treasury," "Maunder's Universal Class Book," &c.

The labour bestowed on these publications has always claimed our warmest encomium. Maunder was not a person to undertake and not to do. Most conscientiously and diligently did he acquit himself of every one of his tasks; and the consequence is, that for general reference there are no works extant (we hardly except the largest Cyclopedias) superior to his neat portable volumes, for every seeker of information. The avidity with which youth and intelligent childhood consult them is the highest testimony, and we know many houses to which we have recommended them, that "go to Maunder" has

become the watchword and advice whenever any difficulty occurred in study or reading, and seldom have we found the appeal made in vain. Upon every ground, therefore, we venture unhesitatingly to pronounce Mr. Samuel Maunder an eminent benefactor to his kind, and his name, one to be remembered with respect and gratitude by generations yet unborn. He had not reached a period of life which led us to fear its so sudden termination; but he has been called away, and if just and good actions, a modest self-estimate and firm integrity, an absolute devotedness to literature in its best sense for educating the mass of the people—if these qualities and pursuits “smell sweet and blossom in the dust,” so long shall his memory be cherished throughout the British empire.

THE DRAMA.

Haymarket.—On Thursday evening, an adaptation of Dumas's drama, *Les Démoniselles de St. Cyr*, was produced at this theatre, under the title of *Runaway Husbands*, with but moderate success. It is of a class of drama that has never been very popular with English audiences, who are, in general, apt to be more pleased with broad character than the complication and explication of intrigues, upon which the piece chiefly depends for its interest; and although, by a somewhat Procrustean process, the five acts of the original are compressed into three, there is not sufficient interest or strength of situation to render it greatly attractive. The scenery and dresses were splendid and in good taste, and the acting effective, in the hands of Messrs. Wallack and Buckstone, Mrs. Fitzwilliam and Miss Reynolds, the latter lady playing the part originally performed by Plessy. Judicious curtailment is required to render this drama popular, and there are instances of slovenliness in the dialogue that the adapter would do well to correct.

Lyceum.—A two-act drama, translated from the French, was produced here on Thursday, entitled, *The Husband of my Wife*. As an outline of the plot, we may state, that a rebel, *Fernando d'Oliveira*, Charles Mathews, takes refuge in the house of *Estrada*, Frank Mathews, whose daughter *Ines*, Miss Gilbert, is about to be married to one *Perales*, Harley, who has not yet arrived. The pursuers enter and read a proclamation, condemning those to death who shelter *Oliva*; so, to save his own neck, *Estrada* passes him off as the expected bridegroom. *Perales*, now arrives, and, being disowned by every one, is arrested as the rebel. The scene now passes to the court of *Philip of Spain*, Selby. *Oliva*, under a feigned name, performs good services for the king, and becomes attached to the court; *Ines* is in attendance on the queen, and, resisting the attentions of courtiers and those of his majesty, confides all letters to the keeping of her husband, who uses them to obtain his own forgiveness. This is very excellently worked out; and, judging from the applause, it must have a long run, being perfectly successful. We believe this is Mr. Moreno's first public essay as a dramatist; and his warm reception, when, after long calling, he made his bow before the curtain, ought to induce him to proceed in a career that has commenced so auspiciously.

MUSIC.

Her Majesty's.—Mlle. Lind pursues the round of parts by which she has become so celebrated. After delighting every one with her display of pastoral simplicity and tenderness in the *Sonnambula*, she sang the *Lucia* on Saturday with an equal display of genius in her treatment of the pathetic story of Lammormoor. In this, to our notions, one of her greatest parts, Mlle. Lind exhibits the utmost depth of sentiment and the highest grasp of intellect of which the part is capable, and truly we have never witnessed anything more intensely pathetic than her acting of the cruelly deceived girl when she reads the forged letter and sings with such exquisite grief, “Me infelice! ah! la folgore piombo,” and the plaintive aria, “Soffriva nel pianto,” that follows. In the mad scene, her assumption of a wild ghastly look was terrifically true. The beautiful aria, “Spargi

di qualche pianto,” was sung, too, with the greatest feeling, and in that charming *sotto voce* for which she is incomparable. Coletti sang the part of *Enrico*. His “*Cruda funesta*” is a fine performance, and would alone place him in the first rank of barytones. Gardoni acquitted himself very creditably in the most arduous part of *Edgar*, a part that is, perhaps, the very greatest test of an opera singer's powers.

On Thursday Mlle. Lind appeared in *La Figlia*, and was greeted with enthusiasm from a house crowded in every part, on her resumption of a character which she has rendered peculiarly her own. Never was the Nightingale in sweeter or better voice, and her acting, both as the sutler to the regiment, and as the niece of *La Marquesa*, was marked with all that archness and simplicity that have rendered the character so telling with an English and mixed audience. To pretend to criticize the performance would be downright folly; it is a perfect triumph of vocal and histrionic genius. F. Lablache was *Sulpizio*, and Gardoni *Tonio*, and both excellent.

On Tuesday, Mlle. Parodi made her appearance as *Leonora*, in *La Favorita*, a character of distinct and opposite features to that of *Norma*, in which she established her position with the public. We are not inclined to think the selection a very judicious one—for though Mlle. Parodi was excellent in the tender and pathetic parts, and the assumption of the character was novel and effective, yet it wanted the force of the situations which rendered her delineation of *Norma* so striking. The performance, however, was much applauded, and quite successful; and that is the main point after all. There were several encores; and Mlle. Parodi was called before the curtain several times, to receive the oblation of a shower of bouquets. The great Lablache played the part of *Baldassare* for the first time, and we have only to say that no such representative of the strict but loving priest could be found upon the stage. Gardoni was good as *Fernando*, and Coletti admirable as *Alfonso*. The whole music was given with consummate skill, and the chorus and band, under Mr. Balfe, did their duties with great correctness and precision.

Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden.—Grisi appears to have commenced this cycle in her career—abounding in rivalry, yet affording finer scope for the highest efforts of her art than any preceding one—with renewed vigour. The *feu sacré* which had flickered and burned pale in the depressing atmosphere of undisturbed and fashionable routine is roused, and she enters the circle like some renowned champion of chivalric days, once more to excite wonder and delight, and display the standard of excellence in the vocal art. Besides the effect of the *prestige* which Mme. Grisi holds, her singing at this time possesses a peculiar charm and interest on account of the care and earnestness with which she does everything; no point of acting is forgotten, no daring flight of song is neglected or feared, while every sentiment and passion is portrayed with the most overpowering fervour both in voice and manner. We have often endeavoured to point out a remarkable quality in the mere tone of the voice in Grisi's singing, by which the most beautiful expression is obtained, so that if we heard it behind the scenes the sentiment intended to be conveyed by her singing would always be felt. This is an exceedingly rare gift, for by far the greater proportion of vocalists, though so great in singing, do not possess it; they use their voice as many musicians do their instruments, but lack the heaven-born faculty of expressing a sentiment.

The *Lucrezia*, which Grisi sang for the first time on Tuesday, is certainly one of the finest of her tragic parts, and admits of a display of all her fiery energy, as well as of deep feeling, when she sings so touchingly, “*Gra desso il figlio mio*,” in the last scene. We thought her as great as ever in every respect throughout the opera, which was not so perfectly performed in other respects. Angri made a good deal of the little part of *Orsini*, and introduced an air and cabaletta of Pacini's, which gave her more opportunity of displaying her extraordinary executive power. In the *brindisi*, “*Il segreto*,” she excited

quite as great a sensation as other great contraltos, though, for our own part, we thought her singing of it disjointed and broken in effect. It wanted the flowing character, but in spirit there was nothing lacking. Mario sang ineffectively, as though fatigued; consequently, the first part of the opera and the last scene suffered sadly, and he omitted an air at the opening of the second act. Tamburini, though a splendid acting *Alfonso*, is unfortunately no longer equal to the task of singing the fine scene, “*Vieni la mia vendetta*,” with all the force it requires.

On Thursday, we had *Norma*, and never have we listened with greater satisfaction and delight to the opera. Grisi was in fine voice, and portrayed this celebrated character of her repertoire with such zeal, singing at the same time with such masterly skill, as to excite the greatest enthusiasm. From first to last, she imparted a grandeur and intensity of expression into the impersonation of the most imposing kind—every attitude and look was full of meaning. The most remarkable points in the performance were the singing of the “*Deh con te*,” and the wonderful fire and withering looks with which she gave the “*Ah non tremate*,” this gained the most vehement applause, and was repeated amidst a complete shower of wreaths and bouquets. The whole of the last scene was most feelingly given, and the “*Qual cor tradisti*” with an exquisite expression of grief and despair. Those who have not seen this great lyric actress in days of yore may think themselves fortunate that they may hear her now in all her glory. Salvi had the part of *Pollio*, which he sings admirably and with immense power, giving it quite the robust Roman character. Mlle. Corbari was the *Adalgisa*, as on former occasions, and sang very correctly and with good taste. Marini was very effective as *Oroveso*; and the choruses were perfect, and fine in tone and expression. Indeed, the performance of this opera must be pronounced one of the most satisfactory ever produced.

Opera Comique.—St. James's.—The Comic Opera continues to flourish, and is really a very delightful entertainment, a happy relief to the more severe music of the Italian stage. Charton continues to charm every one by her elegant and impassioned singing; her voice has the peculiar touching quality so enviable. M. Octave, called the first tenor of the grand opera, rather an assumption we should think, though he is a tasteful singer, has been singing in the *Fra Diavolo*, with the performance of which we were not very well satisfied. His “*Agnes tu jeune fille*” is a failure, with our recollections of Braham and Wilson in the part; and with the exception of Charton's, the other parts were only indifferently well performed. On Wednesday, Herold's charming opera, the *Pré aux Clercs*, was given for the first time, with the strongest cast of the company. The opera has rarely been heard in this country, and if our memory serves, not since the time of Mr. Monck Mason's management of a French opera company at Drury-lane. The music is exceedingly pleasing, free from the noise and pretension of Auber and Boieldieu, and formed more upon the Mozartian model, though not so full of subjects for the voice; it is very rich in ideas, and these well worked out and supported in the orchestra, and the concerted pieces are very clever and agreeable—these were capitally sung by Charton, Guichard, Octave, and Condere. Charton's romance, “*Souvenirs de jeune âge*,” was beautifully sung, and the pretty cavatina, “*O jours d'innocence*,” with the obligato violin music, excellently played by Deloffre, was another remarkably pleasing part of the performance. The costumes are admirable in every respect, and the opera, with the exception of a hitch or two in the choral accompaniments, was effectively performed.

VARIETIES.

The *North Star*, for the Arctic Sea, did not sail as appointed, and letters will be in time at the Admiralty to the close of this day, Saturday the 5th, and probably for a few days later, as we hear that her sailing has been postponed for a short time.

Mr. Lough's Sculpture.—Last week Mr. Lough opened his studio to view by cards; for it is indeed impossible to have sculpture seen as it ought to be in the den of the Royal Academy, and those who are so circumstanced as to lead them to send their productions there, suffer a great disadvantage in the appreciation of their works. Mr. Lough having raised himself to his great position in the art, independently of the Academy, naturally prefers exhibiting where he can be seen, though confined to a far more limited, if a more cultivated circle. This year his gallery possesses unusual and more numerous attractions. The grand conceptions of his Shakespeare characters, for Sir M. Ridley, Macbeth, Hamlet, Lady Macbeth, Portia, &c. are arranged in the first room, with his Milo, Satan, Dead Knight and Mourner, Vanquished Knight, and other noble groups and single figures, and busts of eminent persons; and form altogether a splendid collection of genius, developing itself in nearly every branch of sculptural invention and design. Proceeding inward, his new works, together with Titania and the immortal Puck, are seen, and delightful they are after the sublime and deeply tragic of the chief ornaments of the outer chamber. Here is Oberon, indignant, the companion, and not unworthy companion to Puck. The expression is glorious; but Lough excels in the philosophy of expression, and his ideal reveals the natural of the being whom he represents. Add to this, which is the striking truth of the first glance, the happy accessories, and the admirable drapery, and you have the secret of sculpture, which needs no explanation, but tells its whole story at once, be it pathetic or humorous, elegant or simple, beautiful or of the highest elevation. The broad baby-brow and pouting lip, and every feature of the Fairy King, speak his wrongs, and his very attitude (contrasted with the mischievousness of Puck) is redolent of revenge for the insult he has suffered. A Gany-mede is equally fine; *L'Allegro*, with a goat stepping as it were down a Welsh mountain stream, is the very emblem of the Principality, and ought to be the first statue in the collection of our young Prince of Wales.

The Montcalm Gallery, collected by the Marquis de Montcalm, who commanded the French forces at the battle of Quebec, has been brought from Montpelier, to be sold at Christie and Manson's yesterday and to-day. We expected to see pictures of finer quality. There is nothing of the very highest class. The Grenzes are all good; so are the Van Huysum flower pieces. There are several good Vernets, and other masters of the modern French school. The Salvatore battle piece is a very fine work. The Ludovico Caraccis are beautiful small pictures. The Albano is a rare and exquisite little gem of the master. The Wynants is a good picture, seen to disadvantage in the dirt. The large picture, "Les Noces," by Rembrandt, does not appear so full of force as he generally is; it reminds us more of Eckhout. The Guido, from the collection of the Marquis de Sommarina, is a fine picture of the Bolognese school. There are some interesting works by Philip de Champagne, Le Sueur, P. Da Cortona, and Omme-ganck. A good A. Ostade, "Two Smokers." A fine example of Titian's colouring in a study of two heads; and a capital example of Van der Neer. The pictures by Rubens, C. du Jardin, De Hooghe, which is more like De Wint; C. Dolce, W. Vandervelde, and Murillo, are inferior to many before seen in this sale-room.

The Pipe and Tabor.—These simple and old twin instruments, which once had whole and sole possession of our streets and byways, and well remembered in our youthful days, when dancing bears and dogs had their day with such "immense attractions," are not quite extinct; an aged professor still exists, and on the first of May turned out in great force, in the neighbourhood of Paddington, with his tabor, the little flat drum, which is suspended from the little finger of the hand that plays the pipe, decorated with a bit of new ribbon, and playing a variety of the old English jig tunes capitally.

Stowe MSS.—Lord Ashburnham is stated to have given 8000*l.* for this collection, which consequently will not come under the hammer.

Dr. Bialloblotzky's Expedition to discover the sources of the Nile has attracted the notice of H.R.H. Prince Albert, who has subscribed 10*l.* towards the expenses of the undertaking.

The British Museum is closed till Wednesday the 9th, for cleansing, after which it will be opened till 1st September, closing in the evening at seven o'clock, instead of four, as in the winter season.

Mistranslating.—The following whimsical example of mistranslating is worthy of Literary Variety notoriety:—Michelet, in his "Histoire de la République Romaine," mentions the following as one of the laws of the twelve tables, "*Ne façonnez point le bucher avec la hache*," which, from the context, if not otherwise, it would be plain to most general readers meant, "Thou shalt not shape the funeral pile with the axe." But it is translated, "*Do not shape the butcher with the axe*."

Mr. Sporie's Concert.—This popular singer and composer's annual concert took place at Crosby Hall on Monday evening, when the spacious room was capitally filled. The music was selected principally from English ballads, and the singers included Miss Lucombe, Miss Eliza Nelson, Miss Manners, and Miss Stewart; Messrs. Genge, F. Smith, Shoubridge, and Mr. Sporie himself, who sang a new song, called "Hospitality," with great taste, and was loudly encoered. The instrumental department included Frederick Chatterton on the harp, Case on the concertina, and Richardson on the flute, the last playing on one of Siccama's diatonics, from which he drew the most dulcet tones. Miss Eliza Ward also played a fantasia on the pianoforte tastefully. The encores were many during the evening, which appeared to afford much delight to the large audience assembled.

Sale of Books.—Messrs. Christie and Manson commence a four days' sale, of a large and important collection of books, on Monday next. There are many fine, rare, and valuable lots, in dead and foreign, as well as the English language; and the condition of the books generally, as to preservation and binding, is such as to warrant their being at once placed upon the shelves of private libraries. Some of the early printed (fifteenth century) classics are very curious.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

The superb History of Noble British Families, Notes on the Cathedral Libraries of England, by Beriah Botfield; Alison's History of Europe, vol. 2; Memoirs of Prince Rupert, by Elliot Warburton, 3 vols.; The Fairfax Correspondence, B. Bell, 2 vols.; Werne's White Nile, 2 vols.; Bryan's Dictionary of Painters, Thomson's History of Scotland, Nicol's Manual of Mineralogy, Mrs. Trollope's Lottery of Marriage, Isaac Taylor's Loyola and Jesuitism, Carr's History of Greece, James Fergusson's New System of Fortification, and a dozen of other new volumes, and many lesser publications, have reached us, in a crowd, after the lull of Easter holidays, and will meet with as speedy attention as possible, and adequate to their respective importance.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Alison's Europe, vol. 2, 8vo, cloth, 15*s.*; royal, 30*s.*
Averel's (A.) Memoirs, post 8vo, cloth, 6*s.*
Barrett's (A.) Christ in the Storm; or the World Pacified, 12mo, cloth, 4*s.*
Basket of Fragments, seventh edition, 12mo, cloth, 6*s.* 6d.
Bell's (R.) Memorials of the Civil War, 2 vols, 8vo, cloth, 30*s.*
Blanchard's (L.) Sketches from Life, 3 vols, post 8vo, 15*s.*
Bonar's (Rev. H.) Coming and Kingdom of the Lord Jesus, 12mo, cloth, 5*s.* 6d.
—Story of Grace, new edition, 18mo, cloth, 2*s.*
Brodie's Urinary Organs, fourth edition, 8vo, cloth, 12*s.*
Brown's (T.) Illustrations of Fossil Conchology, royal 4to, cloth, £3 15*s.*
Burchell's (Thomas) Memoirs by his Brother, 12mo, cloth, 4*s.* 6d.
Burke's Peerage, 1849, 8vo, cloth, £1 1*s.*
Buxton's (R.) Botanical Guide, 12mo, cloth, 6*s.*
Cathedral, sixth edition, 18mo, cloth, 4*s.* 6d.; morocco, 6*s.*
Child's Christian Year, fourth edition, 32mo, cloth, 2*s.*; morocco, 4*s.* 6d.
Christian Servant's Book, 12mo, cloth, 1*s.* 6d.
Chronological Tables of Greek and Roman History, edited by Dr. W. Smith, 8vo, cloth, 5*s.*

Conquest's (Dr.) Letters to a Mother, third edition, 12mo, cloth, 5*s.* 6d.
Cooke's (W.) Argument on Existence, &c. of Deity, 12mo, cloth, 5*s.*, 8vo, 7*s.* 6d.
Cowe's (Rev. R.) No Truth no Life, 12mo, cloth, 3*s.*
Craig's (J.) Universal Dictionary of the English Language, vol. 2, royal 8vo, cloth, 21*s.*
Daily Church Service, 18mo, roan, 10*s.* 6d.
Davis's Hints on Secular Instruction, third edition, 12mo, cloth, 2*s.*
Dry Leaves from Young Egypt, by an Ex-Political, 7*s.* 6d.
Fergusson's (J.) Essay on Fortifications, imperial 8vo, cloth, 12*s.* 6d.
Ham's (Rev. J. P.) Life and Death, 12mo, cloth, 2*s.*
Hogarth's Works Complete, 2 vols, 4to, £2 5*s.*
Introduction to Study of Social Sciences, 18mo, cloth, 2*s.*
Jervie's (S.) The Dying Girl and other Poems, post 8vo, cloth, 3*s.* 6d.
Ken's (Rev. B. P.) Prayers for the use of Persons at Bath, 12mo, cloth, 2*s.* 6d.
Lectures on Evidences of Christianity, 12mo, cloth, 3*s.*
Loudon's Ladies' Companion to Flower Garden, fifth edition, 12mo, cloth, 7*s.*
Lytton's (Sir E. B.) Eugene Aram, post 8vo, cloth, 3*s.* 6d.
Malte Brun's and Balbi's New System of Geography, 8vo, new edition, 30*s.*
Maxims of Sir Morgan O'Doherty, Bart., square cloth, 2*s.*
Monro's (Rev. E.) The Revellers, 12mo, cloth, 2*s.* 6d.
Muspratt's (Dr.) Qualitative Analysis, 8vo, cloth, 2*s.* 6d.
Newman's (F. W.) The Soul, its Sorrows &c., post 8vo, cloth, 6*s.*
Nicol's (J.) Manual of Mineralogy, post 8vo, cloth, 12*s.*
Notes on the Cathedral Libraries of England, royal 8vo, cloth, 25*s.*
Plant's (R. W.) New Gardeners' Dictionary, post 8vo, cloth, 5*s.*
Priest (The) Upon his Throne, Lent Lectures, 1849, post 8vo, cloth, 6*s.*
Rockingham; or the Younger Brother, 3 vols, second edition, £1 11*s.* 6d.
Small's Mercantile Tables, 4to, cloth, £2 10*s.*
Seven Tales by Seven Authors, 12mo, cloth, 7*s.*
Sunday School Library, vol. 1. 1. Addresses to Children, 1*s.*
Small Books on Great Subjects, No. 3., second edition, 3*s.* 6d.
Thomson's (J.) Value and Importance of Scottish Fisheries, 12mo, cloth, 3*s.* 6d.
Trollope's (Mrs.) The Marriage Lottery, 3 vols, post 8vo, boards, £1 11*s.* 6d.
Taylor's (Jeremy) Life of Christ, abridged, 18mo, cloth, 1*s.* 6d.
Thompson's (Rev. T.) History of Scotland, 12mo, boards, 4*s.*
Tourtier's Little Model Book, fourth edition, 1*s.* 6d.
Working Man's Third Prize Essay, "Torch of Time," 12mo, cloth, 3*s.*
Werne's (F.) Expedition to Discover the Source of the White Nile, 2 vols, post 8vo, cloth, £1 1*s.*
Westwood's (J. O.) Illuminated Illustrations of the Bible, 4to, half morocco, £1 11*s.* 6d.; large paper, £3 13*s.* 6d.
Williams' Memoir and Plan of Jerusalem, 8vo, cloth, 9*s.*
—with Plan mounted on roller, 18*s.*
Woman's Mission, thirteenth edition, 18mo, cloth, 2*s.*
Whewell's Mechanical Euclid, fifth edition, 12mo, sewed, 6*s.*
Wilson's (Dr. J.) Evangelization of India, 12mo, cloth, 6*s.*

DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.

[This table shows the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.]

1849.	h. m. s.	1849.	h. m. s.
May 5 . . .	11 56 30.5	May 9 . . .	11 56 13.3
6 . . .	— 56 25.4	10 . . .	— 56 10.4
7 . . .	— 56 20.8	11 . . .	— 56 8.1
8 . . .	— 56 16.7		

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Hore Egyptiaca.—The continuation of these papers will appear in our next, and alternate with the *Hore Celtica*, an interesting contribution to Philology, as the former is important to the New system of Egyptian, Biblical, and ancient chronology.

The review of the Percy Society publication in this No., induces us to defer the continuation of our Statistics of Poetry.

We are sorry we cannot insert the lines on Beauty: they are warm and fanciful enough, but lack the one thing needful.

To Advertisers.—From this date, the Scale of Charges for Advertisements will be:—

Six Lines or less	£0 5 0
Each additional line	0 0 6
A Column	2 2 0
A Page	6 0 0

Advertisements displayed across Columns will be charged according to the space occupied.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, TRAFALGAR SQUARE.—Notice is hereby given that the EXHIBITION will OPEN on MONDAY next, the 7th instant, at Twelve o'clock.—Admission, One Shilling. Catalogue, One Shilling.

JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A., Sec.
Exhibitors and Students may receive their Tickets and Catalogues by applying at the Academy on Monday after 12.

EXHIBITION of the SOCIETY of BRITISH ARTISTS. Suffolk Street, Pall Mall East. OPEN for the SEASON. Admission, One Shilling. Open from Nine till Dusk.
J. W. ALLEN, Sec.

CLOSING OF THE PRESENT EXHIBITION.
BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALL MALL.—The GALLERY for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the WORKS of BRITISH ARTISTS is OPEN DAILY, from Ten till Five; and will close on Saturday, May 12th. Admission 1s. Catalogue 1s.
GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION is now OPEN, at their GALLERY, 5, PALL-MALL EAST. Admission, One Shilling. Catalogue, Sixpence.
GEORGE FRIPP, Sec.

THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of this SOCIETY is OPEN for the SEASON at their GALLERY, FORTY THREE, PALL MALL, near ST. JAMES'S PALACE, from Nine o'clock till Dusk.
Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 6d.
JAMES FAHEY, Sec.

THE HAKLUYT SOCIETY.—THE ANNUAL MEETING of this Society will be held on WEDNESDAY, the 9th inst., at the LONDON LIBRARY, 15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE. The Chair to be taken at Three o'clock.

FISTULA INFIRMARY.

PRESIDENT.
The Right Hon. Sir JAMES DUKE, Alderman, M.P., Lord Mayor.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.
Digby, the Right Hon. Earl, Deuman, Right Hon. Lord Chief Justice, F.R.S.
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OCTAVIAN BLEWITT, Sec.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL, AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS,
Presented at the Annual General Meeting, held at the Society's Office, on Thursday, March 1st, 1849.

The Directors have to report, for the information of the Proprietors, that the number of Policies issued within the year ending June 30th last was 437; that the Sum Assured thereby was £253,810; and that the new Premiums received thereon amounted to £28,533. The Income of the Society, which had reached £122,906 in the year ending June 30th, 1847, has increased to £127,348 during the past year.

This increase will appear the more important when it is stated that the sum of £15,005 15s. has been realized on Policies which have been forfeited, Lapsed, or Purchased during the year, being the largest sum realized under that head in any one year since the commencement of the Society.

Tables of Rates and Forms of Proposal can be obtained of any of the Society's Agents, or by addressing a letter to
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Bonus to Policies issued on Healthy Lives at the ages of

30.				60.			
No. of annual premium paid.	Sum Assured.	Bonus added.	Sum now payable.	No. of annual premium paid.	Sum Assured.	Bonus added.	Sum now payable.
7	1000	114 15	1114 15	7	1000	153 19	1153 19
4	1000	65 11	1065 11	4	1000	111 19	1111 19
1	1000	16 12	1016 12	1	1000	27 6	1027 6

Bonus to Policies issued on Consumptive Lives at the ages of

30.				50.			
No. of annual premium paid.	Sum Assured.	Bonus added.	Sum now payable.	No. of annual premium paid.	Sum Assured.	Bonus added.	Sum now payable.
7	1000	175 17	1175 17	7	1000	284 15	1284 15
4	1000	103 6	1103 6	4	1000	150 15	1150 15
1	1000	27 13	1027 13	1	1000	29 9	1029 9

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1, Princess Street, Bank, London, Oct. 1, 1848.

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